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CRIME AND THE ELDERLY

A Thesis

by

David Alan Coulie

Approved by:

Thomas R. Phelps, Chair  
Thomas R. Phelps

James M. Poland, Second Reader  
James M. Poland

Date: 21 July 1978

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CRIME AND THE ELDERLY

David Alan Coulie  
B.A. University of Albuquerque, Albuquerque, N.M.  
M.A. Central Michigan University, Honolulu, H.I.

THESIS

Submitted in partial satisfaction of  
the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

in

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

at

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

Abstract  
of  
CRIME AND THE ELDERLY  
by  
David Alan Coulie

Statement of Problem

The lack of adequate recognition by police departments and other criminal justice and social service agencies of the special problems posed by crime and criminal victimization on the elderly may be depriving many elderly victims of the care, attention, and specialized programs warranted by their needs and, in some cases, may be unnecessarily exposing them to high risks of criminal victimization.

Sources of Data

- (1) Review of available literature to include books, reports, surveys, journals and newspaper articles garnered primarily from university, state, and private libraries.
- (2) Visits to selected police and criminal justice agencies, State and Regional Area Agency on Aging Offices, and senior citizen centers in Davis and Sacramento, California.
- (3) The 1977 Davis, California community Survey, a random sample of the city of Davis, which involved 482 participants, 36 of whom were age 60 or older. Extensive examination was conducted on the replies of these 36 elderly respondents to selective questions pertaining to fear of crime, perceptions of police effectiveness, contact with police, and participation in police department programs. Comparisons were conducted on response patterns of those under 60 and more than 60 years of age and replies of the elderly were further stratified by sex, education, marital and economic status.

The elderly are differentially affected by crime and the fear of crime due to their increased vulnerability and, as such, warrant a certain degree of specialized handling and understanding by the police. The information presented in this thesis will enhance police knowledge of the elderly and their problems and the recommendations in the thesis, if adopted, will greatly aid in the establishment of better communication between the police and the elderly and, ideally, result in less elderly victimization and a better living environment and quality of life for the elderly.

Committee Chair's Signature of Approval Thomas R. Phyllis

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Aging is the neglected stepchild of the human life cycle. Old age is a day-by-day and year-by-year confrontation with powerful external and internal sources, a bittersweet coming to terms with one's own personality and one's life.

Robert N. Butler<sup>1</sup>  
Why Survive? Being Old in America

Over the past few years there has been a slowly growing realization in this country that society in general has been severely remiss in its attitudes towards, and its care and treatment of, the elderly. Much of the neglect undoubtedly resulted from our natural tendency to follow the dictum of "out of sight, out of mind." Indeed, our "Senior Citizens", also generically referred to as the "Older People, Elderly, and the Aged" - those people 65 and older - have primarily maintained a low-key, inconspicuous position in our society. Although many of the elderly have been torn asunder by the revolutionary changes in our life styles and basic concepts of family during the past twenty-five years, they have attempted to weather the resultant psychological trauma and live out their remaining years with as much dignity and grace as possible under the circumstances.

In years past, the elderly could look forward to spending their "twilight years" within, or close to, the

family unit they had spawned. They were, in most cases loved, protected and perhaps most important respected, thus providing them a supportive milieu with little turbulence and a strong sense of belonging. This was particularly so - and to a certain extent still is - in rural environments where the elderly remained active and productive members of the family unit right up to their death. Much of this was attributable to our "Old Country" heritage, wherein the elderly have always been held in high esteem and the fact that until the 20th century most of our population was located in rural, rather than urban, areas.

Needless to say, times have changed dramatically and the life styles of the elderly have been unalterably disrupted. The population decline of the rural areas and the farm families and the concomitant rise of large urban centers have resulted in a new and often awkward situation for the elderly. Family closeness has declined as Americans have become more mobile and as children leave for distant schools and more and more "working mothers" enter the job market to keep up with inflation and maintain the comfortable life styles we have become accustomed to. More older people are now left primarily on their own in many cases, with no family close by to provide assistance and moral support when needed. A small number may enter "Old Folks Homes" or be placed there by children who do what they think is

best for the parents they can no longer adequately care for. Unlike most of today's workers, who will have some form of pension in their retired years, the majority of today's elderly citizens rely primarily on small, fixed incomes such as social security and welfare payments and too many-- particularly those in the large, impersonal urban centers-- are destitute, impoverished, and sorely neglected.

The elderly's economic situation forces many of them to remain in areas which have become run-down, neglected, and crime-ridden. The aged cannot afford to leave and, all too often, they really cannot afford to stay because they ineluctably will enter into the criminal justice system as victims of a crime. It is a sad commentary on our American way of life to hear a U.S. Senator and member of the Senate Select Committee on Aging state that "millions of older Americans now live under a form of house arrest, barricaded from the outside world. Many are afraid to answer a knock on the door."<sup>2</sup> Accounts, such as the following lead-in to a feature 1976 story in Time magazine, are increasingly staining the veneer of our once polished tradition of caring for our elderly citizens:

When they go out--if they go out--they listen anxiously for the sounds of footsteps hurrying near, and they eye every approaching stranger with suspicion. As they walk some may clutch a police whistle in their hands. More often, especially after the sun sets, they stay at home, their world reduced to the confines of apartments that they

turn into fortresses with locks and bars on every window and door. They are the elderly who live in the slums of the nation's major cities. Many are poor. White or black they share a common fear - that they will be attacked, tortured or murdered by the teen-age hoodlums who have coolly singled<sup>3</sup> out old people as the easiest marks in town.

Crime, and its associated phenomenon the fear of crime, have become a major problem for the elderly. Public opinion polls of the elderly repeatedly rank concern about criminal victimization close to, or at the top of, their major contemporary worries. Many agencies most knowledgeable about senior citizens cite crime, and the fear of it, as their (the elderly's) number one problem.<sup>4</sup> In many U.S. cities the elderly are afraid to use public streets for exercise and enjoyment, to go shopping for food or other necessities, or to use public transportation. There have been some tragic reports of elderly persons sleeping in the daytime because they were so concerned about being victimized that they were afraid to sleep at night.<sup>5</sup>

It is problems of this nature that have catapulted the plight of the elderly into the national spotlight and stimulated the aforementioned realization that this neglected segment of our society is in need of considerable help in many aspects of their lives. The realization is sparked no doubt and in no small part by the simple fact that the elderly are nothing more than the precursors of each of us ourselves. What has always been regarded as a minority



problem with limited application is no longer the case. Subsequent data in this study will demonstrate that the U.S. is no longer a young society and the "Graying of America" will continue for many future decades. Nor are the elderly any longer a completely silent majority. With increasing fervor they are organizing and speaking out for a greater say in their affairs and calling for more meaningful governmental programs at all levels in place of the many bureaucratic mazes which do little or nothing for them, yet manage to waste millions of dollars.

Germane to this paper is the problem of the elderly crime victim and the role the police have played, are playing and must play in the future. Until recently most police agencies have been as remiss as the other bureaucracies in failing to recognize the special problems of the elderly and their particular needs. More than to any other agency, the elderly turn to the police in times of crisis and need and in most cases are among the strongest supporters of the police. It is an unfortunate irony of our system that the aged are provided much less assistance and attention by the criminal justice system than are criminal offenders. The police, as the only 24 hours a day, seven days a week service agency available to the elderly, are becoming increasingly involved in their problems and are becoming more aware of the need for effective and

empathetic response paradigms. While the police have traditionally exhibited compassionate concern in dealing with the elderly, little or no specialized training has been given to officers and there is substantial room to improve police capabilities and effectiveness in serving senior citizens.<sup>6</sup>

Former Los Angeles, California, Police Chief Edward M. Davis emphasized the vulnerability of the elderly citizen to criminal attack by noting that, other than children, they were the most vulnerable. Davis further noted that in many of our cities apparently few people care about the plight of the senior citizens. In a sociological parable he opines that this lack of concern could stem from the fact that we live in a rather plastic and disposable world wherein we shop at markets and buy convenience items that serve some immediate utility and when we are finished with them, we throw them away. Davis wonders if perhaps we are regarding the elderly in the same manner as the convenience items, i.e. they are no longer functional (as productive workers in society) and have no real utility. The elderly are thus relegated to a position of being isolated from the rest of society. They are discarded, in a sense, to a place for "old people." Their wisdom and their judgement are no longer solicited. No one cares for them and no one cares about them. They are lost in a new generation

and they are alone. If the problems associated with growing older are not properly addressed by society as a whole, says Davis, we could face a future that would make today's generation of so called "crib jobs" look like a Sunday school picnic.<sup>7</sup>

#### Statement Of Problem

With the multitude of crime and fear of crime concerns among the elderly it might be assumed that there would be a wide range of studies, books, articles, etc. on the subject in the criminal justice and social science literature. The police are intimately involved with the problems of crime and the elderly, thus they should have the benefit of all possible information on the subject. However, the opposite is in fact true. There is a dearth of readily available information. There have been relatively few scientific studies on the elderly crime victim and the differential effects of crime upon the elderly. To locate the studies involves a concerted effort into the journals of several disciplines such as gerontology, the social sciences, and criminal justice. Clemente and Kleiman noted that their review of five years (1970-1974) of Crime and Delinquency Abstracts indicated that of literally thousands of studies on crime, only a handful dealt specifically with the elderly.<sup>8</sup> Research for this study revealed a similar lack of pertinent material and a widespread unfamiliarity on the part of those

interviewed (police, public administrators, social service workers) with the material that is available. There are few good interdisciplinary works which interface the various research efforts and findings and provide a compendium of current and valid information on crime and the elderly. This lack of information, "the fact that many police departments do not capture or analyze crimes by age of victims, and the fact that there is a high rate of non-reporting of crime by the elderly,"<sup>9</sup> could result in these problems not being recognized or sufficiently addressed by police administrators.

#### Purpose of Study

In order to adequately recognize the differential impact of crime against the elderly, and be cognizant of the particular vulnerabilities of the elderly to crime, selected scattered data from myriad sources needs to be consolidated into a single document. Such a document will provide valuable and timely information to police administrators and planners and shed more light on this significant contemporary issue which requires continued attention. It will fill what appears to be an evident gap in the current literature on crime and the elderly. A key goal of this study is to proffer a comprehensive analysis and compendium on the main issues and significant works on the subject in order to fill the gap. Relevant to this analysis, an examination



will be made of the replies of elderly respondents to an annual community survey conducted in 1977 in Davis, California, with a view towards examining and comparing response patterns of the elderly with other age groups in the survey. Since few surveys single out the elderly for segmental examination, the efforts made in this study will hopefully lead to a paradigm for subsequent emulation.

#### Scope and Limitations of Study

The scope of the study will include a systematic review of literature on the subject of crime and the elderly with specific emphasis on police interface with the problem. While the scope of the subject, by its very nature, is somewhat broad, it must be dealt with in this context since there have not yet been sufficient efforts to streamline the overall phenomenon of crime and the elderly into smaller and more workable parts.

A limitation which will be encountered and provided subsequent elaboration is the lack of valid statistics on elderly victimology. Until recently, many police departments gathered and kept little data on ages of victims. This trend is being reversed and, in spite of a scarcity of data in some studies, it does not represent a significant limitation.

### Definition of Terms

Elderly: For the purpose of this study, and unless otherwise stipulated, the term "elderly" will apply to those persons aged 65 and older. It will be used interchangeably with other terms such as "senior citizen," "aged," and "older people," and the same meaning will apply.

Crime: An intentional act or omission in violation of criminal law, committed without defense or justification and sanctioned by the state as a felony or misdemeanor.<sup>10</sup>

Victim: A person who is killed, injured, or subjected to personal suffering by virtue of a criminal act committed against him.

Vulnerability: As used in this study, the special capability of the elderly of being hurt or injured by crime and criminals.

### Organization of Remainder of Study

The thesis is organized in five chapters and three appendices. Chapter I contains the Introduction, Statement of the Problem, Purpose, and the Scope and Limitations of the Study. Chapter II describes the methodology that has been used. Chapter III contains an analytic overview of crime and the elderly and provides a description of the elderly population of the United States, the vulnerability of the elderly to crime, the extent of crime against the elderly, a case history involving violent crime and elderly victims, and a selection of exemplary police programs to aid the elderly. Chapter IV is a comprehensive examination of the replies of elderly citizens participating in the 1977 Community Survey in Davis, California. Conclusions and recommendations are included in Chapter V.

## FOOTNOTES: CHAPTER I

<sup>1</sup>Robert N. Butler, Why Survive? Being Old in America, (New York: Harper and Row, 1976), p. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Harrison A. Williams (N.J.) quoted in "Flemming Urges Action in Crime Against Elderly," Aging, August 1975, p. 5.

<sup>3</sup>"The Elderly, Prisoners of Fear," Time, November 29, 1976, pp. 21-22.

<sup>4</sup>"Step-Up in Fight Against Elderly," U.S. News and World Report, June 13, 1977, p. 62.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Clarence M. Kelley, "Message from the Director," F.B.I. Law Enforcement Bulletin 45 (January 1976).

<sup>7</sup>"Crime and the Elderly," Editorial, The Police Chief 44 (February 1977):8.

<sup>8</sup>Frank Clemente and Michael B. Kleiman, "Fear of Crime Among the Aged," The Gerontologist 16 (March 1976):207.

<sup>9</sup>Noted in U.S. House Select Committee on Aging Report In Search of Security: A National Perspective on Elderly Crime Victimization, 95th Cong., 1st Sess. Comm. Pub. 95-87, April 1977, pp. 19-20.

<sup>10</sup>Paul Tappan, Crime, Justice and Correction (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1960), p. 10.

## CHAPTER II

### METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in three phases. The first phase entailed a comprehensive review of all available literature, primarily the few books on the subject of crime and the elderly and an extensive research of journals and periodicals. The research was mainly accomplished at the California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) library, the California State Library, the University of California, Davis, library, and the State of California Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) library, Sacramento. The interlibrary loan service at CSUS was utilized to acquire the most current books on the subject. As books and journal articles were read, their bibliographies were closely examined, copied, and cross-referenced with others to ascertain the leading authors/articles on the subject of crime and the elderly. With few exceptions, most of the multi-referenced (more than two times) works were acquired.

The second phase, which to a great extent overlapped the first, involved a series of interviews and correspondence, with specialists in the field and attendance at meetings for senior citizens conducted by the Area 4 (California) Agency on Aging. Monitorship of crime prevention presentations to the elderly by the Sacramento Police



Department Community Relations/Crime Prevention Division was also accomplished. A wide range of federal, state and local officials were contacted. An effort was made to deal primarily with personnel in or close to the criminal justice system. A selective list of personnel contacted and selective correspondence received from some of these sources is included in Appendix 3.

The goal of the first two phases was to develop in the researcher a level of expertise on crime and the elderly and the ability to transfer this knowledge into the analytical overview presented in Chapter III of this thesis. It is felt that presentation of the material in this manner, instead of in a basic literature review format, is both more illustrative and easier to read, particularly for anyone performing subsequent research. In essence, therefore, Chapter III is the result of the first two phases, although it is not per se presented as a literature review.

The last phase of the study involved detailed examination of elderly citizens' responses to a community survey concerning law enforcement and police-community relations. The replies from elderly respondents are examined in light of findings and expectations garnered from Chapter III and an attempt is made to explain the pertinent results. Comparisons are conducted between replies of the elderly and those of various other age groups who participated in the

survey.

A concerted effort was made to keep the methodology, and indeed the entire thesis, as basic and as easy to follow as possible and to avoid the obfuscation which all too often results when unnecessarily elaborate research models fail to accomplish their intended purpose.

### CHAPTER III

#### CRIME AGAINST THE ELDERLY: AN ANALYTIC OVERVIEW

Psychologically, financially, and physically no group of citizens suffers more painful losses than our nation's elderly do at the hands of America's criminal predators.

Clarence M. Kelley  
F.B.I. Director  
Testimony before U.S.  
Select Committee on  
Aging (95th Congress)  
April 13, 1976.

#### The Elderly Population of the U.S./California

Americans have historically thought of their society and themselves as youthful and to a great extent this has been true. At the time of the country's first census in 1790, half of the people were 16 years of age or younger and, until as recently as 1970, the median age was still under 28.<sup>1</sup> However, as the United States begins its third century its people are beginning to grow older. The median age is now 29.5, will pass 30 in 1981, reach 35 by the year 2000, and approach 40 by 2030. Over this same span the number of people over 65 will more than double from the current 24 million to approximately 52 million, one out of every six Americans.<sup>2</sup> Unless there is another "baby boom" similar to the post-World War II experience (not expected), these projections are inexorable, built into the raw data

of the births already recorded. Some five thousand Americans turn 65 each day and about 75% of Americans now reach age 65.<sup>3</sup> By the year 2000 there will be considerably more older people than now and fewer youngsters 19 years of age and younger. We are clearly evolving into an older society and the "graying" of America will become pronounced and evident in the coming years. If the current trends continue zero population growth would be attained by 2040 and it would result in what demographers call a stabilized age structure in which all generations and age groups are about the same size and the demographic profile has changed from the traditional triangle to a rectangle. In this configuration the number of 55 year olds would eventually be roughly equal to the number of 5 year olds or 30 year olds. The median age would level off at about 40 and the "notion of a youth culture would recede into the mists of history."<sup>4</sup>

Females represent a majority of the 65 and over population (approximately 60 percent). In mid-1977 there were 146 elderly women for each 100 elderly men. In the 85 and above age bracket the ratio is 217 women to 100 men. Women have an average life expectancy of seven years longer than men and tend to marry men older than themselves, thus approximately two-thirds of all older women are widows. Twenty percent are widows by age 60, fifty percent by 65, and 67



percent by 75.<sup>5</sup>

Typically, the elderly subsist on lower household incomes than that found in the population at large. A 1975 survey set the median household income of those 65 and older at \$4,800 compared to \$12,400 for those 18 to 64.<sup>6</sup> Many elderly people are living at or below the poverty level. Valid estimates of the actual numbers are hard to find since it is difficult to determine on a national level income factors such as interest from savings, supplementary support from children, or income derived from bootleg jobs. As a general rule, the elderly have approximately half the income of those under 65 and spend almost four times as much on health care.<sup>7</sup> This observation is substantiated by recent data released by the U.S. Senate Committee on Aging. The committee reported that the average annual income of an elderly family is about \$6,300 a year, while the typical under-65 family head has an income of \$12,702.<sup>8</sup>

More than 60 percent of the elderly live in metropolitan areas, and most of these reside in the central city. Most live there because they have been there for decades and either for cultural, economic or emotional reasons, they have not moved. Many older people live in the central cities because they cannot afford housing in the surrounding area or suburbs. They are, more often than not, dependent

upon public transportation and more likely to live alone. Contrary to popular belief, only about five percent of the nation's elderly lived in institutions (old age homes, nursing and convalescent homes, etc.).<sup>9</sup>

A loss (by theft) of a sum as small as \$20, an amount that does not register on the F.B.I. Crime Index, can represent a much greater relative loss to an older person on a small, fixed income. This amount of money can deny food or essential drugs, or cause a utility bill to go unpaid. Similarly, in comparison to the general population, the elderly are educationally disadvantaged. Sixty-three percent never graduated from high school, and nine percent are functionally illiterate, meaning that they cannot read or write well enough to engage in usual activities requiring those talents. About eight percent are college graduates.<sup>10</sup> Both the economic and educational positions of the elderly can be expected to improve with each passing generation and there should be continued progress in the field of geriatrics. These factors should occasion a qualitative and quantitative change to the elderly population which will significantly alter their economic, political and social life styles. The elderly's demonstrated participation in the voting process should also help enhance their status in coming years. While the elderly represent 15 percent of the voting-age population, they cast 16 percent of the votes in the 1976

presidential election.<sup>11</sup>

In California, the nation's most populous state, the elderly population continues to grow, especially in the southern metropolitan areas where the favorable climate and excellent medical facilities have attracted many retirees. In 1976, the U.S. Census Bureau reported the state's population at 21,520,000.<sup>12</sup> The State Department of Finance estimated that the population will grow to approximately 22.6 million by 1980.<sup>13</sup> Residents 65 and older make up about 10 percent of the population, approximately 2,100,000. This 10 percent may double to 20 percent by the turn of the century. Between 1970 and 1980 the 65-74 age group will increase by 24 percent and the 75 and over age group by 28 percent. About 30 percent of those over 65 live alone or with nonrelatives and of this number 74 percent are women. Women, in fact, constitute 60 percent of California's senior citizen population.<sup>14</sup> In California, 41 percent of the senior citizens live in the central cities of the urbanized areas. Los Angeles County, with a 60 plus population of 970,528 has the highest density of senior citizens (including 402,360 in the city), followed by San Diego County with 223,000, Orange County with 195,431 and the Bay Area, Alameda County, with 144,529. In the 1975 census, the City of Sacramento had 32,111 residents aged 65 or older. This was approximately 12.3 percent of

the total population.<sup>15</sup>

Even though this study shall deal with elderly victimology, a short synopsis will be given on violators 60 years of age or older in California since their offense rate proximates the national data and it will serve to illustrate the fact that the elderly come nowhere near meeting out the unlawful conduct they are receiving. The data was compiled in a report by the California Attorney General based on an analysis of 907,145 arrests reported by the state's Police and Sheriffs' Departments on their monthly Arrest and Citation Ledger for 1974.<sup>16</sup> For purposes of analysis, data pertaining to the arrests of persons 60 years of age and older are generally contrasted with similar data of three younger age groups: those under 25 years of age, those from 25 to 39 years of age, and those from 40 through 59 years of age.

Arrests of persons 60 years of age and older comprise only 3.0 percent of all arrests reported on the Arrest Register in 1974. This corresponds to 52.0 percent for arrests of persons under 25 years of age. On an estimated population rate basis, there are 131 arrests per 1,000 persons under 25 years of age and 16 arrests per 1,000 persons 60 years of age and older. Stated in another way, the data reveal that as age increases, the likelihood of being arrested decreases sharply and arrest charges, as



indicated by level (felony and misdemeanor), tend to become less serious. There is a clearly demonstrated inverse relationship between the level of arrest and age; the older group arrests are primarily (95 percent) for misdemeanors. The majority of arrests of persons 60 years of age and older (80%) are alcohol related, 47 percent for "drunk" and 33 percent for "drunk driving." The data also show that the percents of persons arrested who are white increase with age and that there is a decrease in the ratios of females arrested to total persons arrested as age increases.

#### The Vulnerability of the Elderly to Crime

There has been considerable pro and con for the past several years on the issue of whether or not the elderly, as a group, suffer higher victimization rates than other segments of the population, and this issue will be further addressed in some detail in this thesis. There is, however, little argument about the unique problems of criminal vulnerability faced by the elderly. Advancing age, in itself, stimulates the development of various infirmities which can significantly affect the activities of the afflicted, but many other factors also come into play. It has been estimated that as a group the elderly have an annual aggregate income of about \$60 billion, coupled with a significantly reduced capability of protecting it.<sup>17</sup>

Contrary to some popular belief, general intelligence,

memory and judgement are not included among the skills that tend to become impaired by age alone. There are age-related changes in vision, hearing, muscular strength and coordination, and the speed to which reaction to external events can occur. (These changes do conspire to reduce the information processing efficiency of the older person, especially when the person is required to react to a complex, unfamiliar, or fast-paced environment situation.)

M. Powell Lawton, et al., opine that "most of the elderly person's deprivations are cumulative and add up to what can be called a heightened vulnerability to stress."<sup>18</sup> This stress leads to fear and, as this thesis will later point out, the fear of crime can be as terrifying as suffering from an actual act.

Simply speaking, crime tends to have a more profound and lasting effect on the older victim than on the younger victim. There is definitely a differential impact of crime upon the older victim. Jack Goldsmith states the following reasons for viewing the older victim as a special and distinct case:

1. There is a high incidence of reduced or low income among the elderly. Thus, the impact of any loss of economic resources is relatively greater.
2. Older people are more likely to be victimized repeatedly, often the same crime and the same offender.

3. Older people are more likely to live alone. Social isolation increases vulnerability to crime.

4. Older people have diminished physical strength and stamina; hence, they are less able to defend themselves or to escape from threatening situations.

5. Older people are physically more fragile and more easily hurt should they opt to defend themselves. For example, bones are more easily broken, and recovery is more difficult. Thus, they are less likely to resist attackers.

6. Older people are far more likely to suffer from physical ailments such as loss of hearing or sight, and circulatory problems which increase their vulnerability.

7. Potential criminals are aware of the diminished physical capacity and the physical vulnerability of the elderly and thus are more likely to seek out an elderly **target** (whose aged status is easily visible).

8. There is a greater likelihood that older people will live in high crime neighborhoods rather than in suburbia as a result of diminished income and of being rooted in central cities. Thus they find themselves in close proximity to the groups most likely to victimize them - the unemployed, teen-age dropouts.

9. The dates of receipt by mail of monthly pension and benefit checks (and hence the dates when older people are most likely to have cash on their person or in their dwelling) are widely known.

10. Dependence on walking or on public transportation is more likely among older people who, for physical, financial or other reasons, are less likely to drive or own a private automobile.

11. There is evidence that older people are particularly susceptible to fraud and confidence games.

12. Older people have the highest rates of the crime of personal larceny with contact (theft of purse, wallet, or cash directly from the person of the victim, including attempted purse snatching).

13. Because of loss of status and decreased sense of personal efficacy associated in American culture with being old, older people may be less likely to process complaints through the criminal justice bureaucracy and to draw upon available community resources for protection and redress.<sup>19</sup>

Police recognition of the distinctive nature of the elderly's crime problem and their special vulnerabilities is a major factor in determining how best they can be helped. For years this problem had been conveniently ignored and, in 1970, when the White House Conference on Aging reported crime to be a major concern of the elderly, few states or cities could evidence any positive actions which had been taken. Furthermore, notes Evelle J. Younger, there was almost no hard data extant on the incidence of such victimization.<sup>20</sup>

Police agencies have traditionally concentrated on the criminal act as opposed to the victim and a question has developed on whether or not it is justified to use law enforcement resources for the benefit of a particular segment (the elderly). Dr. Jack Goldsmith thinks such a move is long overdue and writes that

The sifting out of the older segment of the population for purposes of crime prevention is important in two ways: it highlights the differential impact of these crimes and it considers



the special characteristics of the older victim. It should be noted that there are other segments of society that have been singled out for special consideration by law enforcement - most notably children, public officials and celebrities - because of either differential impact or special victim characteristics. Unlike these groups, however, the elderly have a great potential for segmental crime prevention.<sup>21</sup>

Goldsmith goes on to say that the principle of specialized treatment for older persons is becoming a well-established part of public policy in several areas including property tax relief and reduced rate public transportation. In view of the aforementioned special vulnerability of senior citizens to criminal victimization similar special programs by law enforcement would appear to be warranted.

Historically, victims have not been an overriding concern for law enforcement and the other parts of the criminal justice system. Over the years a response paradigm developed that focused attention and concern on the criminal act and the offender, not on the victim. There was, therefore, no special recognition given to the differential impact of crime on certain groups of victims - especially the elderly. There is, however, a growing trend of victim orientation in criminal justice. The rise of the field of victimology, presidential statements on crime that stress the plight of victims, and the expansion of rape victim and battered child and spouse programs

have paved the way for specialized programs to reduce crime against the elderly and assist the older victim of crime.

Martin Sicker writes that the recognition of the elderly as a target group of special concern has recently begun to occur in the field of criminal justice. He states that this late development is not attributable to any excessive reticence on the part of criminal justice administrators and practitioners and that the elderly themselves along with their advocates were late to realize that they do constitute a group particularly vulnerable to a wide variety of criminal activity.<sup>22</sup> Sicker suggests that because of their vulnerability the elderly do merit the special consideration and priority treatment of a "categorical group" by the criminal justice system.

The noteworthy strides which are beginning to be made in such diverse areas as income security, housing, transportation, and community-based social services reflect the increased concern for the elderly and recognition of their special vulnerability and needs by federal, state and local governments. There is more of a realization that the problems confronting the elderly are not transitory nor are they contrived. If society ignores the problem it will be doing so at a great risk to itself.

A somewhat different perspective on elderly vulner-

ability and victimization is offered by Jeffery H. Reiman.<sup>23</sup> He notes that in many ways, the very fact of being elderly in our society constitutes victimization. By rendering aging itself as a process of victimization, he believes that we have given the green light to those who would assault and plunder the old. Reiman suggests that in our unique (and wierdly cold) American system, to be in need of help is to be an object of scorn; to receive charity is to be denied respect. Thus, the processes of our society convert the old into the needy and the scorned. He states that our society puts our old people out to pasture at an early age and the old are considered as dispensable because we have already dispensed with them. Reiman opines that we give the elderly little chance to be anything more than a burden and they become no more than burdens and, as such, we may owe them kindness but not respect. Deprived of the real effective respect that would be evidenced by outrage at their suffering and readiness to come to their defense, they are ready targets for victimization with impunity.<sup>24</sup>

Marlene A. Young Rifai in the Preface to her recent book Justice and Older Americans<sup>25</sup> parallels some of Reiman's assertions and further underscores elderly vulnerability. She notes that the total impact of crime is often felt more acutely by the elderly than by others and

that when the final abuse of crime is heaped upon an older person who has already suffered from the experience of the gradual withdrawal of social support, the tragic result can be severe depression or even death. She opines that the inequalities existing in our society that affect older persons are reflected both in lack of social opportunities and lack of societal protection. Young Rifai suggests that until there is a full realization that victimization of the older person is not an isolated experience and until there is full realization that alleviation of that victimization demands full societal involvement, there can be little reduction of the political and social inequalities oppressing older persons.

In summary, because of so many factors within the elderly person himself, such as the physical, mental and emotional, and because of innumerable factors operating outside of the person, but inherent in our competitive economic system and the larger culture, it seems indisputable that the elderly are indeed especially vulnerable to predatory activities both against their persons and their property.



### The Extent of Crime Against the Elderly

Jack Goldsmith writes that "the crime problem has two aspects--the actual threat of victimization and the perceived threat. Fear of crime is a direct product of the perceived threat."<sup>26</sup> Among the elderly, the fearful environment experienced in urban and suburban America can be particularly threatening. The very fear of crime for many of them leads to an exaggerated sense of helplessness and frustration and, in the absence of really effective coping behavior, may well be the critical factor in their inability to lead normal lives. Fear of crime in the older population has been the most pervasive and consistent finding in the research done for this thesis. Even where the fear of being victimized may be exaggerated or unwarranted by local conditions, the effect on the older person is just as severe as where the fears are justified. The rate of elderly women being raped may be, for example, only 0.3 per thousand population, but if a minority of women are afraid, it becomes a social problem. The resultant extremes of these fears, already mentioned, are self-imposed house arrest by many older people who refuse to venture out of doors.

"I'm scared. I'm scared to leave my house and I'm scared to remain here. I don't know what to do. I've called the police and they told me they can't do anything.

I don't understand and I'm still scared."

Young Rifai quotes these words of Margaret Frazier, a 79 year old resident of Portland, Oregon, talking about her problems with crime.<sup>27</sup> Her home had been burglarized three times in the past year and she was in the house when the last incident occurred. Young Rifai states that the fear of crime is an acute problem which is spread throughout the older community and that the fear tends to affect both the behavior and the general morale of older persons. In her study of elderly victimization in Portland, Oregon, Young Rifai detected several types of fear of crime, particularly a fear about crime in general and of an increase in crime.<sup>28</sup>

It is commonly accepted that demographic variables such as income, race, sex, and education differentially affect the attitude of the elderly toward social problems, or more specifically, fear of crime. Generally, those that are more disadvantaged with respect to income and education are more likely to view crime as a more serious problem than their advantaged counterparts. The crime problem is also seen as a serious threat generally by the elderly and this is underscored by the attitude of the elderly regarding mobility. When asked to list "serious problems in getting to where you want to go," 24 percent of those aged 65 and over responding to a national survey

listed danger of being robbed or attacked as a major problem (only 14 percent of respondents aged 18 to 64 who were asked the same question expressed similar fears).<sup>29</sup> This difference of ten percentage points demonstrates a problem of particular concern to the elderly in that their perceptions of crime have a direct impact on their ability to feel safe and secure when leaving their homes. Residential burglaries and purse snatchings were listed as the biggest fear producers among elderly women. For most elderly, fear of crime is ranked second to the basic survival need of food and shelter.<sup>30</sup>

Jaber F. Gubrium writes that fear of crime, while generally most provoked by the risk of being victimized, is also affected by the degree of social interaction of elderly persons in various environments.<sup>31</sup> This is tied to the relatively large number of friendships that are likely to emerge among the aged within age-concentrated, protective housing as opposed to age heterogeneous, non-protective housing. Elderly persons living alone, away from friends of the same age, are left without locally supportive relationships to help them cope with their apprehensions and their fears about crime are likely to become magnified. Gubrium thus opines that among the aged, fear of crime is likely to be greater in non-protective, age-heterogeneous housing than in protective, age-concentrated

housing.<sup>32</sup> Gubrium's hypothesis relative to protective living environments for the elderly closely parallels the recommendations of several other researchers who advocate "target hardening" for the elderly living units in urban areas.<sup>33</sup>

Community size is also related to a person's fear of crime. The greater the size of the community, the higher the level of fear, according to Harris polls in 1964, 1966, 1967, 1969 and 1970, and Gallup polls of 1967, 1968, and 1972. This fact holds true for all age levels of the population, but is most acute among the elderly. These findings dramatically underscore the deteriorating quality of life of the metropolitan elderly in the United States.

What, then, is the basis of these fears of crime by the elderly? Are they justified? Just what is the extent of crime against the elderly? The preceding sections have presented a general profile of the elderly and their problems. The issue of their actual victimization will now be addressed.

There are some writers, such as Paul H. Hahn, who believe that the U.S. is well into a crisis situation involving crime against the elderly. The crisis situation seems to be composed of four major elements:

1. The widespread, intense fear of being criminally victimized which ranks very high on the list of



concerns of the aging in almost all polls.

2. The heinous effects of crime against the elderly physically, emotionally, financially and in almost every other important life area.
3. The special vulnerability to criminal victimization caused by the diminished physical capacity, special emotional problems, predictability of life styles, loneliness and isolation and numerous other factors common to many of our elderly citizens.
4. The high incidence of crime of certain types such as "con games" and consumer fraud and other more direct crimes of property and against the person, especially in certain geographic areas and under specific circumstances.<sup>34</sup>

Hahn cites reports of elderly victim cases from across the U.S. and notes that crime against the elderly is a nation-wide problem that is particularly serious in our larger cities. For this reason he considers the matters of crime against the elderly as an integral part of what has been termed the "urban crisis."<sup>35</sup> It is a fact that the elderly tend to be concentrated in older neighborhoods in close proximity to the very elements of society that are most likely to victimize them.

Carl L. Cunningham, like Hahn, voices alarm about the problem of crime against the elderly. He, too, states

that "we are well into a crisis situation concerning the criminal victimization of the elderly who live in or near the higher crime areas of cities."<sup>36</sup> He states that the hard fact is that crime is devastating the lives of thousands of relatively defenseless older Americans. Cunningham worked with one of the most comprehensive surveys to date on elderly victimization--the 18-month, Kansas City Project, conducted by the Midwest Research Institute from 1972 to 1974. Data was collected on 1,800 victims of crime over 60 years of age. Crime was examined from the perspective of its resultant social and economic deprivation and, as such, it was found to strongly--and disproportionately--impact on the elderly. One of the most salient facts reported in the Kansas City study was that the young American is attacking, stealing from, and generally victimizing the old. The element of elderly vulnerability and physical juxtaposition of the elderly and the unemployed crime-prone youths is one of (if not the) contributing factors. The study found that elderly persons living in high crime areas of Kansas City were victimized by burglary and robbery at a rate frequently three to four times higher than that of the city's overall population. Of the more serious crimes against the elderly, vulnerability occurred in the following order: burglary, robbery, grand larceny, auto theft, non-violent purse snatch, assaults, rapes,

sexual molestation and homicide. (Ninety-five percent of all cases studied concerned burglary, robbery and larceny.)<sup>37</sup> In Kansas City purse snatch cases, the elderly white woman was the typical target of the young black offender. Eighty-five percent of victims were white with 84 percent of the offenders black. Of the offenders, 95 percent were males in their early teens or twenties. The purse snatches more commonly occurred in the victim's neighborhoods than any other place. Many occurred within the victim's building, and bus stops were also a favorite target area.<sup>38</sup>

One of the most recent and comprehensive studies on crime and the elderly was conducted by Young Rifai in Portland/Multnomah County, Oregon, a metropolitan area of about 567,000 persons of which about 107,000 are over 60.<sup>39</sup> The ability of the study to generalize to the rest of the country was affected by the area's predominantly white population--96 percent; however, the overall findings are pertinent and provide a valuable contribution to the literature on the subject. Some of the key aspects of the elderly person's problems with the criminal justice system surfaced by this study are:<sup>40</sup>

1. Persons over 60 are not necessarily victimized by crime in general more than other age groups.
2. With certain types of crimes such as purse snatch, burglary, vandalism, consumer fraud, persons over

the age of 60 may be more often victims than other age groups.

3. Older persons are often afflicted most severely with "quasi-criminal" offenses such as harassment, extortion, and small "con-games."
4. Elderly persons often have extremely high fear levels concerning crime.
5. The high level of fear when combined with other aging problems may cause significant behavioral changes.
6. Persons over the age of 60 who are victims of crime often suffer more severely than other age groups due to economical, psychological, and physical vulnerabilities.
7. The older person often feels isolated and alienated from current system functioning. (S)he lacks knowledge concerning the functions of the system and is alienated by the high perception of criminal threat.
8. Current crime prevention strategies have some inherent problems in implementation for older persons.
9. Most crime problems must be analyzed with regard to the specific area concerned because environmental and social factors intercede dramatically at a local level.



Many offenses against the elderly are crimes of opportunity perpetrated by young hoodlums. The elderly are no match for these healthy fast bandits and it is not unusual for a victim to be repeatedly victimized. The noted street crimes (purse snatches) to include muggings and robbery together with home burglaries and confidence-type frauds, are offenses that most commonly strike the elderly, and often disproportionately. Unfortunately, the elderly are victimized in a wide variety of ways in our society. They are beaten and raped, their only means of support--monthly checks--are stolen from the mailboxes, they are pursued by heartless fortune hunters anxious to separate widows from what little money they have, salesmen exploit them at their time of grief, cosmetic, medical, and drug firms swindle and tranquilize them, those with visual handicaps are cheated when change is made in stores, and the list goes on and on.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police conducted a survey of police departments in 1975 which asked the departments to specify the five most frequently committed crimes with older victims. With 180 police departments reporting, the most common offenses noted along with the representative percentage of the overall rate were:<sup>41</sup>

1. Confidence Games and Deceptive Practices 150 (83%)

2.	Pocket Picking or Purse Snatching	129 (72%)
3.	Burglary	122 (68%)
4.	Theft of Income Checks	99 (55%)
5.	Vandalism	99 (55%)
6.	Robbery	66 (37%)

It should be noted that there has been conflicting information concerning the actual incidence of victimization among older persons. Compounding the difficulty of assessing the scope of elderly victimology is a pronounced lack of accurate statistics concerning crimes perpetrated against this group of people. Such figures have been practically impossible to obtain since few agencies until recently have reported the age of their victims. Although more departments are now noting the age of victims (a recent poll of major city police departments revealed 27 of 37 departments recording victim age)<sup>42</sup> there is still little or no consolidated state or national data.

Since 1930, statistics on crime in the nation have been compiled by the FBI based upon the number of crimes reported annually to the Bureau by approximately 9,160 state and local law enforcement agencies. It is generally recognized that the statistics are subject to statistical inaccuracies for a number of reasons and that they measure only seven categories of crime. More important, insofar

as victimology is concerned, there is no data collected on age of victims. The FBI does record data such as age, sex and race on the perpetrators of crimes, but has not done the same on victims. The Director of the FBI, Clarence Kelley, in Congressional testimony on April 13, 1976, stated that "to add statistics on the victim [to the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)] would be quite an extension and quite expensive, affecting both the police department and our records system."<sup>43</sup> Although there is no current effort being made to correct the UCR situation, the U.S. Justice Department is currently in the process of establishing a centralized office of national crime statistics. Under the control of the Attorney General, the office will consolidate the 53 statistical programs now scattered throughout the department and other federal law enforcement agencies. The required input of victim data in this new system would be a major step in determining the actual status of elderly (and other) victimization.

Since comprehensive, authoritative national data on elderly victimization is not available, reports on the subject center primarily on local/regional and a few national surveys. Some of the most often used data on victimization comes from the surveys and studies of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). Created in 1968 to assist and supplement local law enforcement agencies,

one of its functions is to conduct studies and gather data on the incidence of crime. Unlike the FBI's method of relying on incidents reported to the police, LEAA uses a survey method for data collection. The survey consists of a representative probability sampling of households and commercial establishments. It has two main elements--a continuous national survey and surveys taken periodically in selected central cities. The surveys are designed and conducted for LEAA by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The National Crime Panel of LEAA has conducted five major surveys on criminal victimization in the U.S.<sup>44</sup> These surveys constitute the most extensive attempt to document the risk of being victimized that different groups in our society encounter. The victimization rates derived from these surveys reflect that the elderly are victims of violent crimes at a rate of eight per 1,000 population, while the rate for the general population is 32 per 1,000. For crimes of theft, the elderly are victimized at a rate of 22 per 1,000 as compared to 91 per 1,000 for the general population. In household crimes, the elderly experience victimization rates of 107 per 1,000 households, while the general population has a rate of 217 per 1,000 households. The survey data indicates, therefore, that national victimization rates are lower for the elderly than for the general population.



Although the elderly appear to be less victimized in most of the crime categories of the LEAA surveys than persons in younger age groups, this may not be so if raw figures are examined. The U.S. House Subcommittee on Housing and Consumer Interests of the Select Committee on Aging believes that the general figures mask certain categories in which the elderly experience high victimization rates.<sup>45</sup> In the LEAA survey of "Five Largest Cities," the elderly have the highest rate of larceny with contact in four of the five cities. In the survey "Crime in Eight American Cities" the figures reveal that while the victimization rate for the general population for personal larceny with contact is 317 per 100,000 the rate for those 65 and older is 362 per 100,000. In three of the eight cities, robbery with injury was highest for those 50 and over--except for persons under 20 years of age. The elderly also sustain a very substantial number of burglaries. Using the survey results another way:

1. In crimes of violence, the elderly experience eight victimizations per 1,000 population.
2. In crimes of theft, 22 victimizations per 1,000 population; and
3. In households crimes, 107 victimizations per 1,000 population.

If the elderly population at that time was 20 million,

in a one year period the elderly experienced 160,000 violent crimes, 440,000 crimes of theft, and 2,140,000 household crimes. Combining the figures leads to a total of 2,740,000 crimes per 20 million population. This would mean that an elderly person stands a little better than one chance in ten of being the victim of a crime in a one-year period, still lower than the overall population would be, but considerably more significant than the general figures indicate.<sup>46</sup>

In comparison figures for 1973 and 1974, persons over 65 incurred larger percentage increases in crimes of violence (except for the 16-19 year old males) and the category of theft from females 65 and over was higher than for any age group in the survey.

LEAA uses an aggregate figure which can mask important rates from subsamples and variables which are lost when the data is averaged to form that aggregate. Too, every age interval in the surveys is a "closed" one (e.g. 12-15, 35-49), except that of the elderly. The elderly category includes all those 65 and older, a category that is too large and undifferentiated. Finally, the elderly, by virtue of age, health, and economics are less susceptible to some LEAA crime categories than the general population, e.g. rape and auto theft. Conversely, they are more vulnerable to crimes that were not included in the LEAA surveys such as fraud, bunco, medical quackery and harassment by teenagers.

Anyone concluding from the LEAA surveys that the elderly in the U.S. do not have a crime problem cannot be fully cognizant of the research methods involved. However, taken in its totality, the LEAA data indicates that a significant number of the elderly are victimized, that the victimization rate is increasing, and that the older American in the inner city is disproportionately the victim of crime.<sup>47</sup>

The evolving focus on the elderly crime victim has prompted some journal articles which attempt to analyze the scope of this victimization. Gubrium writes that "his analysis of available surveys reveals that there appears to be consensus on the relatively low degree of victimization in old age. Survey data do not support the popular belief that the aged as a group are the greatest victims of crime in general; also, they do not repudiate the probability that old people may have a greater risk than other persons of being the victims of certain minor crimes."<sup>48</sup> He suggests that elderly victimization may be affected by at least one particular kind of social condition: the degree of protectiveness in the local housing environments of old people, and offers several hypotheses to support this assertion (partially referred to earlier in this chapter).

Clemente and Kleiman's report on fear of crime among the elderly notes that their analysis of national survey data clearly indicates that the aged have low victimization

rates even when the problem of their non-reporting of crime is taken into account.<sup>49</sup> They point, however, to fear as the biggest problem of the elderly and support this assertion through analysis of a national data set drawn from surveys (multistage area probability samples) conducted by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) in 1973 and 1974. In their analysis, specific attention was given to the replies of 461 individuals, age 65 and over, in light of four variables deemed to be of significance in understanding the fear of crime phenomenon; sex, race, socioeconomic status, and community size. Their findings paralleled those referred to earlier in this chapter, i.e. the elderly at higher socioeconomic levels generally express less fear of crime than people at the lower levels; elderly residents in large cities have more fear of crime than those in smaller towns and rural areas (by a three to one ratio); women are far more likely to express fear than men. They also noted that elderly blacks (69 percent) were more afraid of crime than whites (47 percent).<sup>50</sup>

The Cooks challenge the contention of some authors that elderly victimization has reached crisis proportions.<sup>51</sup> They cite the shortcomings of many writers and policy-makers who get so caught up in the rhetoric of crisis that they fail to make a detailed analysis of the relationship between the nature of the problem specified in the rhetoric and the



nature of the problem indicated by available data. The Cooks examined two national victimization surveys based on representative samples: an NORC survey in 1966 which involved a full-scale multistage probability sample of 10,000 households, and an LEAA authorized survey conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in 1973 which entailed a probability sample of 60,000 households in the fifty states and the District of Columbia. The Cooks stated that it does not seem that (1) the elderly are victimized more often than persons in other age groups, (2) the rate of increase for their victimization is greater than for other age groups, or (3) they suffer more often than other age groups from violent crimes, though it is not yet known whether they suffer more physical or financial harm when they are victimized. It does seem that (4) the elderly fear crime more than younger persons and may be at home more often.<sup>52</sup> The Cooks suggest that the data that are presently available indicate that the victimization problem of elderly Americans can be more properly identified as a problem of fear rather than of actual victimization and that there was inadequate support for "crisis" labelling. They express concern that as the alleged high rate of elderly victimization draws more national attention and support, more resources will be devoted to the elderly at the cost of poor, young, black males who are in fact the most likely victims (and perpetrators)

of crime in the United States today.<sup>53</sup> The Cooks recommend that the policy response to victimization of the elderly should be targeted at alleviating their fear of crime.

George E. Antunes et al. have written an article which addresses the apparent puzzle of why the elderly are more fearful of crime even though they are less likely than others to be victimized.<sup>54</sup> They studied LEAA national victimization surveys conducted from February, 1973 to July, 1974 and note that the resultant data are based on interviews with nearly 375,000 respondents. Their specific victimization findings for the elderly are substantially the same as that of other researchers earlier cited in this chapter. They note that in all of the data studied about crime rates, there is no indication that the elderly are special because they are victimized more frequently than others.<sup>55</sup> They suggest that their findings may have implications for understanding why the elderly fear crime more than younger persons though they are victimized less frequently and they offer a number of alternative solutions to help alleviate the fears.

Some of the more positive data on elderly victims (and their offenders) is found in crime studies conducted around the country: Wilmington, Delaware Crime Resistance Effort, 1975; Detroit, Michigan Cass Corridor Safety for Senior Study, 1975; Houston, Texas Model Neighborhood Area Study,

1972; Kansas City, Missouri Midwest Research Institute Study, 1975-76; Boston, Massachusetts study of robbery and its impact on the elderly, 1973; and Portland, Oregon's Multnomah County's victimization Study, 1976.<sup>56</sup> These studies indicate that the average income of the elderly victim is approximately \$3,250 (almost half that of the current estimated average). The person is generally alone when victimized and within ten blocks of place of residence. The victim stands a 38 percent chance of being injured. A profile of the offender in street and household crimes depicts a man under 30 years of age but most likely a teenager (between 13 and 18) and generally black. The offenders in confidence games and bunco are generally older, both male and female and usually white.<sup>57</sup> These studies and the LEAA surveys clearly document the fact that the elderly are being victimized by the youth of America. Although youngsters ages 10 to 17 make up only 16 percent of the population, they account for 45 percent of all persons arrested for serious crimes. Over 60 percent of all criminal arrests are of persons 22 years old or younger.<sup>58</sup>

There is some controversy over which elderly racial group is more victimized. Data in some studies indicate that blacks are victimized at a higher rate than their proportion of the population. Studies on victimization and under-reporting show that the highest rate of elderly

criminal victimization occurs in the inner city. Large numbers of poor elderly blacks live in the city core, and are the least likely to report crimes. Other studies have indicated that blacks are not victimized disproportionately to their percentage of the population; however, these statistics were challenged by the National Center on Black Aged (NCBA). Dr. Booker T. Yelder, Jr., Director of Crime Prevention Project at NCBA provided testimony to the U.S. House Select Committee on Aging in Washington, D.C., on March 29, 1976 to the effect that:

1. Despite the widespread belief that all black aged are the beneficiaries of some enormous extended family structure, most black aged live alone. If they are victims of crime in their homes or when they leave home, there is little protection provided them either by the institutions of law or the community at large.
2. Most black aged live in poverty. Older persons with limited resources tend to use cash to purchase the necessities of life simply because credit is unavailable. This causes many black aged to have cash available in their homes during the first of each month. Thus, contends Dr. Yelder, even though the elderly blacks have far less money than almost any other group in America, they are far more likely



to be mugged, robbed or burglarized.

3. Most black aged must live in either decaying urban areas where crime is more prevalent, or live in isolated developments where crime is also an "accepted, everyday occurrence."
4. To black aged persons, the first of the month--the date when social security, supplemental security income, or retirement pension checks arrive-- is considered "Rip off" day. The black aged are subjected to physical assaults, robberies, and muggings on the streets of cities; and burglaries, rapes, and physical assaults in their homes. They are especially easy prey.
5. Many black older persons are intimidated or reluctant to call or seek help from the police after being victimized. This is due to the black citizens/police relationship which have been adverse, to say the least, upon black citizens. There is also much reluctance among assault victims to identify their attackers because of fear and reprisals. The black aged do not understand the criminal justice system and the idea of going to court can only reinforce negative thoughts of the past.

As more national data on victims becomes available in the future, it will be easier to determine the scope of

black victimization; however, Dr. Yelder's point is well made and his concern is understandable. It is noteworthy that a 1974 Louis Harris survey showed that of those people over 65, twenty-one percent of the white population as compared to 41 percent of the black population reported crime as a "serious problem for them personally." Surely, many impoverished black elderly citizens are being practically ignored and not getting the help they deserve to be given.

The Hispanic (Spanish origin/descent) elderly population of the United States faces many of the same problems encountered by the black elderly. They, too, tend to cluster in low-income areas and they live in constant fear of danger from gangs, burglars, and professional swindlers who prey on their gullibility. When they are victimized they face added and undue hardship because they are almost totally facing a new set of circumstances. Their language and culture come into play and very often these elements do not allow the Hispanic elderly an equal chance to deal with crime and justice. They are often deprived of required community services due to the unwillingness of service groups to make visits to the Spanish community. After a crime has been committed, the Hispanic elderly suffer great psychological consequences because of their inability to deal with the situation effectively because of their distinct cultural and language differences.

It is estimated that there are currently more than one million Hispanic elderly in the United States and their number is expected to increase to over two million by the year 2000.<sup>59</sup> The plight of the Hispanic elderly is of special significance to the State of California as the state has a large Hispanic population.

In California, District Attorney Evelle Younger reports that his department's experience and research reveal the vulnerability of the state's elderly to certain crimes-- crimes of force, buncos and confidence games, medical quackery and consumer fraud.<sup>60</sup> The crimes of force against the elderly most common in California are street crimes, particularly the purse snatch. The nationally predominant bunco schemes such as the "Bank Examiner" Scheme and the "Pigeon Drop" scheme are also high on the confidence games which victimize California's elderly. Senior citizens are particularly vulnerable to medical quackery and consumer frauds and, in fact, seniors were victims in approximately seven in every ten cases of medical quackery fraud coming to the attention of the criminal justice system. Fraudulent supplementary health insurances and medical plans and mail frauds are among the more common consumer frauds sustained by the state's elderly.

In the City of Sacramento, an analysis of elderly victimization based on police department records reflects

a pattern consistent with general national findings that the elderly are not over-victimized in most crimes. Available data from 1975 and 1976 on six frequently committed offenses reveals the following information:

<u>Offense</u>	1975			1976		
	<u>All</u>	<u>Elderly</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>Elderly</u>	<u>%</u>
1. Grand theft, purse snatch	280	64	23	278	60	22
2. Robbery, second degree, strong-arm	434	94	21	451	85	19
3. Assault and battery	1616	19	.011	1693	27	.016
4. Burglary (residential)	6578	568	9	6981	487	7
5. Robbery, first degree	694	30	4	736	36	5
6. Assault with deadly weapon	947	16	.016	1213	29	2

There were no elderly rape victims reported in 1975-76. These figures indicated that the city's elderly population (approximately 12.3 percent) are over-victimized in the street crimes of purse-snatch and strong-arm robbery. However, they suffer considerably less victimization in most other offenses, especially major crimes. There was no victim age breakdown for bunco-embezzlement, but police department sources indicated that the city's elderly are a prime target for these offenses.<sup>61</sup>



In summary, there is adequate data which indicates an extensive amount of crime against the elderly in the United States. Our changing institutions and life styles and a lack of economic security and social neglect have left too many of our older citizens, particularly those in the large, urban centers, in the positions of "lambs" which are prey for the criminal wolves and wolf-packs that are an unfortunate part of contemporary America. The apparent fact that the elderly may not be over-victimized in many major offenses does not negate the reality that their perceptions of crime are such that they need help, understanding, and some amount of specialized attention by police agencies. Heinous crimes of the type reported in the following section underscore the vulnerability of the elderly and bring about much of their fear which, on the surface, may seem out of proportion to actual victimization rates.

#### Extreme Violence Against the Elderly:

##### A Case History

It is an unfortunate aspect of our human nature that we find it difficult to relate to a problem unless it directly affects us or one close to us. It would probably be safe to assume that many Americans are really not aware of the scope of crime against the elderly and how brutal it can be. The more serious and large scale victimizations

do occur in the larger cities; however, the vulnerability of the elderly is basically the same regardless of domain and today's tranquility can quickly change into tomorrow's problems.

The following case history was chosen to give an example of a not uncommon, senseless attack committed against elderly victims in a California city. The point to be made is that such incidents are happening, will happen in the future, and could conceivably happen to any of us. It is regrettable that it takes spectacular crimes to jolt some people into believing that there is indeed "trouble in River City" and not just with the pool table:

Mrs. Esther Lough

In June, 1975, an Alameda County Superior Court jury of seven women and five men found Henry McCormick, Jr., guilty of first-degree murder, first degree burglary, and forcible rape. The case was tried by prosecutor George Nicholson. McCormick was sentenced to prison for life in July, 1975. He will be eligible for parole in seven years.

In October, 1974, Steven Greely was the subject of a finding of murder in juvenile court for the same crimes. He was sentenced to Senior Boys Camp. Within weeks he received the first in a series of weekend and holiday furloughs. In August, 1975, he was permanently furloughed.

McCormick and Greely had attacked Esther Lough. Mrs.

Lough was a widow who resided alone at 6115 Harmon Street, Oakland. She was 5'4", and weighed 98 pounds. Had she lived, she would have been 85 years old on October 30, 1974. She lived alone in her own two-bedroom bungalow.

She raised African violets for a hobby and filled her home with many rare species. She cared for a beautiful backyard garden of flowers, fruit trees and berries. She canned her own food, which helped supply her needs during lonely winter months.

She was the picture of health for a woman of her years, and although she had sometime previously had her left breast surgically removed because of cancer, it had not recurred. She had virtually no hardening of the arteries, a disease normally associated with advanced age. All in all, she fed, clothed and cared for herself.

Mrs. Lough was often seen by her neighbors taking care of her yard and giving candy to neighborhood children. She had even given some candy to one of the persons involved in this case.

Before coming to California in the early 1940s, Mrs. Lough made a death-bed promise to her sister to raise her sister's only child. She kept her promise. Mrs. Lough brought that niece to California, bought and paid for the home on Harmon Street by 1950. She had lived there ever since. Her niece was the last person to see her healthy

and happy. That was on August 6, 1974.

On the next night, August 7, after Mrs. Lough retired for the night, a gang of young toughs gathered in a driveway next door and planned to break and enter her home.

At about 11.00 pm, McCormick told the others, "Let's rob that house," left the gang and kicked in the door. He returned to the gang and asked others to join him in ransacking Mrs. Lough's home. Greely joined McCormick inside while another stood watch outside. Several other persons in the area did nothing to stop the crime, nor to report it.

Once inside, McCormick and Greely dragged Mrs. Lough from her bed in a back bedroom and threw her to the floor in the living room. Her head was so viciously beaten that she never regained consciousness, although she lived in a comatose state for two weeks thereafter.

Mrs. Lough's nightgown was torn and pulled up. Her underwear was forced down. A white cloth was placed over her face and she was forcibly raped. After leaving Mrs. Lough as a groaning mass of injuries on the floor, McCormick and Greely thoroughly ransacked her previously neat home before successfully fleeing.

According to evidence presented at the trial, McCormick and another companion had already broken into and ransacked her home earlier that same summer. Evidence was also



presented which indicated McCormick was committing burglaries regularly all that summer until arrested for Mrs. Lough's murder. He was on juvenile court probation for other offenses at the time.

Police were eventually called by a neighbor and arrived after McCormick and Greely successfully escaped on August 7. Mrs. Lough was found in the unconscious state already described. She was taken to Highland Hospital in Oakland. An examination revealed significant head injuries and a large, freshly abraded bruise in the shape of an open hand on her lower abdomen just above the pelvis, among other injuries. Further tests documented forcible rape.

A team of Highland Hospital neurosurgeons, led by Dr. Grant Gauger, fought off Mrs. Lough's death for two weeks. She finally passed away on August 21, 1974, without ever again seeing the light of day.

An autopsy was performed the next day by Dr. Paul Herrmann, a forensic pathologist. He found at least thirteen significant blunt injuries to Mrs. Lough's head which caused at least seven major injuries to her brain. He confirmed the earlier medical evaluation of forcible rape. He established Mrs. Lough had been, other than the beating and rape just inflicted, in excellent health. He found the cause of her death to have been the beating and the resultant complications.

A plaque hung on the living room wall, just above the place where Mrs. Lough's mutilated body was left to die by McCormick and Greely. It had been there for years. It read as follows: "FRIENDSHIP: The greatest happiness one can have is to love others as Christ would."<sup>62</sup>

#### POST SCRIPT

On January 6, 1976, Steven Greely brutally attacked Mrs. Rosa Ortiz, aged 85 (five feet tall, 100 pounds) in her home on the same street (Harmon Street) where Greely and McCormick had attacked Mrs. Lough. He beat her into a mangled mass of blood, so badly that pieces of her skin were left on the floor. Mrs. Ortiz sustained severe internal injuries, bone fractures, cuts and bruises. She did not die, but for all intents and purposes her normal life is ended. She remains terrified and afraid to go out at all. Greely got five years to life on June 22, 1976. He will probably be back on the streets on parole in 1981.<sup>63</sup>

Crimes of this nature evoke rage, disgust, pity and a lot of frustration about the criminal justice system from the average law abiding citizen. Unfortunately many people, including those in the criminal justice field, look only at the surface data on elderly victimization and do not realize its true scope, that is, the way it affects the elderly. Excellent examples of how the elderly themselves consider their situation are available in sources such as reports

of Congressional sub-committee hearings on elderly victimization. When the elderly are called upon to provide testimony before the committees they give first-hand reasons why they are afraid to walk the streets or even stay at home alone. Any serious researcher on crime and the elderly must read these various reports by the U.S. House and Senate Select Committees on Aging in order to get an initial grasp of the true nature of the problem.<sup>64</sup>

#### Police Programs to Help the Elderly

This study has indicated that our elderly population is in many ways a select group of citizens who are subject to substantial criminal victimization. As such they constitute a potentially favorable target group for police programs designed to reduce crime and provide an ideal focus for preventive programs especially in light of recent trends which show the elderly growing increasingly concerned with problems of crime.

Most of the programs dealing with the problems of crime and the elderly are crime prevention programs tailored to the older adult. In many cases the programs are sponsored through LEAA funds and have been started in the last few years. The basic theory has been to provide older persons with information on "target hardening" their homes and persons in order to reduce crime. Not many of the programs

have been subjected to rigorous evaluation. Some areas show indications that the programs have improved understanding between the police and the community, but it is hard to measure behavior modification by older persons in affecting the changes recommended. A variety of approaches have been utilized in delivering crime prevention information to include slide-show presentations, film productions, video-tape productions, neighborhood watch programs and combination programs. Unfortunately, many of these programs remain in effect for only as long as there are funds from a particular grant. All too often, when the grant expires the programs are either eliminated or significantly curtailed. Few police departments have been able (or attempted) to justify a full-time officer whose specific duty is to work with and be a specialist on the elderly in his jurisdiction. The lack of program continuity, especially when people are just learning about how they can be helped, causes confusion and could lead to increased alienation of the elderly.

Visits to the Sacramento Police Department and discussions with the heads of the Community Relations and Crime Prevention Units (Lieutenants York and Koller) revealed no specific programs in operation that dealt exclusively with the city's elderly residents. The department offers the same services to the elderly as it does to the rest of



the population--primarily crime-prevention education--and police officers are periodically called upon to provide briefings to elderly groups at senior-citizen centers, clubs and housing areas and at nutrition centers. The department is considering several projects aimed towards helping the elderly; the most ambitious of these projects involves working with a local church agency to help senior citizens acquire and install adequate physical security devices in their residences. The designation of an officer to work exclusively with the elderly is also being considered. (It was noted earlier that the city's elderly comprise approximately 12.3 percent of the total population.)

Conversations with fellow police officer students in the criminal justice field from various departments and observations from the literature indicate that many police departments have not established programs for the elderly. In some cases there is a feeling that such programs are unnecessary, but there is also a general lack of knowledge about what type of services could be offered and where to acquire information concerning these services.

The Police Chief magazine issues of February 1976 and 1977 were devoted to crime and the elderly in recognition of the special societal problems engendered by this phenomenon. Both issues contain excellent examples of programs involving the elderly, many of which appear worthy

of emulation. Home security programs, special victim-assistance teams, use of senior citizens as "cop spotters" escort programs with Community-Service Officers, and extensive community education efforts on helping the elderly are among the efforts undertaken thus far. Implicit in most all the programs is an attempt to reduce the fear of crime.

The March-April 1978 edition of Aging magazine (a U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare publication) is also dedicated to the subject of crime and the elderly and contains highlights of a number of cooperative efforts by police and elderly citizens. The National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) offers a wealth of free information concerning all aspects of crime against the elderly and it is an excellent starting point for police planners in determining what information is available and what type of program could be useful. Pamphlets such as Crime Against the Elderly: A Selected Bibliography<sup>65</sup> and Crime Against the Elderly: An Annotated Bibliography<sup>66</sup> provide an excellent research base. In reply to a March 10, 1978, request by this author for information on the subject of crime against the elderly, the NCJRS forwarded a computer print-out with abstracts on 109 documents. The NCJRS computer bank stores data on crime against the elderly by four categories:

1. An Overview of the Problem;
2. Design Concepts for Housing Security;
3. Crime Prevention through Education; and
4. Audiovisual Materials.

Information on new programs is added as it is received.

Other programs throughout the country provide a wide variety of services and innovative ideas on helping the elderly avoid crime, such as: the use of closed-circuit TV in senior high-rise housing projects to control access to the building and prevent victimization (Plainfield, N.J.); the giving and free installation of high-security hardware to qualifying seniors who could not otherwise afford the cost, and sizeable discounts for all others (South Bend, Indiana); a "telephone reassurance" program which provides a daily check-in telephone service to the handicapped and senior citizens. If a telephone call is not received by a predetermined time, a call is placed to the person (Huntington, West Virginia). A wide variety of handouts have been developed to support elderly crime prevention programs. One of the better examples of a simple yet effective method of communication is included in Appendix 2.

The importance and necessity of these various programs in the reduction of actual crime against the elderly, and their perceived fears of crime, cannot be overemphasized. The programs can never totally replace the traditional law

enforcement roles of patrol, investigation, and arrest, but they can definitely provide a beneficial supplement to these roles. The concept of "crime resistance" is more and more becoming popular, particularly among the elderly as they realize that without citizen involvement the police are almost helpless to combat a large percentage of today's crimes.

In fact, evidence from programs across the country indicates that crime resistance appears to be one of the most promising law enforcement concepts to emerge in many years. The main rationale is that if citizen apathy and non-involvement in the community breeds crime, then a re-awakening of citizen involvement should curtail it. This may sound simple, on the surface, but many police departments have learned that such a reawakening requires a massive shift in the attitudes of both law enforcement authorities and the public. The main thrust is convincing citizens of what they can do for themselves, and how helpful it can be for them and their community, and finding those citizens who are ready to act responsively in providing this help.

The result of the elderly citizens' involvement in crime resistance efforts are encouraging. One community with noteworthy success is Sun City, Arizona. An unincorporated retirement community of 30,000, 20 miles northwest



of Phoenix, Sun City was dependent for law enforcement on the limited patrol coverage provided by the Maricopa County Sheriff. By 1974 residents were easy prey for the "dope addicts" who came down the highway from Phoenix looking for something to steal and sell for "a fix." Vandalism and pilferage were also a significant problem. With the help and encouragement of the Sheriff, the Sun Citians formed a Sheriff's Posse, which soon became the largest in the State of Arizona. They ride in two-man teams in their own unmarked cars, wear white hard-hat helmets, and carry whistles and flashlights. Community merchants financed a ten-unit mobile communication system with a base station in Sun City. All Posse members are volunteers who pay for their own equipment and are willing to devote their time and effort to protect their community. Within one year the Posse's success was reflected in the fact that the State Insurance Department credited Sun City with the lowest burglary rate of all large communities in the Phoenix area.

The Sun City Posse is somewhat unique. Close to 50 members are former police officers and several were police chiefs of large Eastern and Midwestern cities. Former attorneys, judges, college professors and business executives are included in the ranks and a woman expert in communications runs the base station. However, they do typify what is possible through community involvement with

the police.<sup>67</sup>

Another excellent example is a program conducted by the FBI and the Wilmington, Delaware, Police Department in 1974-1975. The program was geared to a reduction of street crime against the elderly in Wilmington, especially purse snatches. After an extensive study of these incidents to include development of offender and victim profiles and times, dates and locations of incidents, a massive education program was implemented. A key aspect of the drive was to convince elderly females not to visibly carry handbags or purses on the street. The Singer Company prepared patterns for "purseless pockets" for both winter and summer which described how to make and sew these devices onto coats and dresses. The police department distributed these patterns to all senior citizens and encouraged their cooperation (see Appendix 2 for a copy of this pattern). Escort programs were established for the elderly, and a concentrated effort made by police to follow up on habitual truants who were believed to be responsible for many of the purse snatches. In a short period of time there was a marked reduction in purse snatch cases and a significant feeling of cohesiveness developed by the elderly citizens who took part in the program.<sup>68</sup>

The Crime Prevention Handbook for Senior Citizens  
published by the Office of Community Anti-Crime Programs

of LEAA and the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice is another fine aid to help reduce elderly victimization.<sup>69</sup> A product of the Midwest Research Institute's comprehensive study of crime against the elderly in Kansas City, Missouri, the Handbook would be extremely helpful to any police or senior citizen group planning a crime prevention program. It deals primarily with reducing elderly vulnerability to burglary, larceny, robbery and fraud.

One last publication, Older Americans and the Criminal Justice System<sup>70</sup> is worthy of specific mention in this section. It was developed by the Crime Prevention Office of the National Retired Teachers Association and American Association of Retired Persons (NRTA/AARP). It is arranged in a three-ring binder notebook format and contains lesson plans, teaching guides and comprehensive support material to conduct a series of four, two-hour seminars to educate older people about crime. Seminars cover Street Crime, Fraud/Bunco, Burglary and Police-Community Relations. Compiled by an expert on crime against the elderly, George Sunderland, the program is designed to bring older persons practical, realistic ways to avoid being victimized, to reduce criminal opportunities and to alert the elderly to the real dangers which confront them. At the same time the program is designed to help dispel imaginary fears.

NRTA/AARP encourages police departments to use this and other of their publications in order to become more knowledgeable about, and provide better service to, the elderly.

These previously mentioned programs are all steps in the right direction. Unfortunately, in many cases there is little or no evidence of vigorous evaluation having been done. Ideally, what is needed to determine overall program effectiveness of crime prevention is evaluation over time of reduction of crime in controlled areas which have had crime prevention programs as opposed to those which have not. Increasing quality control by LEAA and by individual police departments offers the hope for much approval in evaluation actions and, in any case, many of the programs have served their initial and most important purpose of highlighting the elderly's crime problems and beginning some type of education and training.



## FOOTNOTES: CHAPTER III

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census Data quoted in "People of an Aging America," U.S. News and World Report, August 8, 1977, p. 54.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Jim Luther, "The Elderly," Sacramento Bee, May 7 1978, p. 7.

<sup>4</sup>"People of an Aging America," p. 54. Also see "New Population Trends Transforming U.S.," New York Times, February 2, 1977, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup>Luther, "The Elderly," p. 7.

<sup>6</sup>"Facts About Older Americans, 1976," U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Publication No. 77-20006, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1977).

<sup>7</sup>Martin Sicker, "The Elderly and the Criminal Justice System," The Police Chief 44 (February 1977): 23.

<sup>8</sup>Luther, "The Elderly," p. 7.

<sup>9</sup>"Facts About Older Americans, 1976."

<sup>10</sup>The Myth and Reality of Aging in America, National Council of Aging, Washington, D.C., 1975, quoted in "The Effects of Crime on the Elderly," The Police Chief 43 (February 1976): 48.

<sup>11</sup>Luther, "The Elderly," p. 7

<sup>12</sup>Received from State Department of Finance, Sacramento, California.

<sup>13</sup>Figures cited in California Statewide Housing Plan, Appendix C. California Department of Housing and Community Development, Sacramento, 1977.

<sup>14</sup>Evelle J. Younger, "The California Experience, Prevention of Criminal Victimization of the Elderly," The Police Chief 43 (February 1976): 28-32.

<sup>15</sup>Population data furnished by the California Department of Finance, Sacramento, 1977.

<sup>16</sup>Arrests of Persons 60 Years of Age and Older, (Sacramento, California: Division of Law Enforcement, Bureau of Criminal Statistics, 1976).

<sup>17</sup>Sicker, "The Elderly and the Criminal Justice System," p. 24.

<sup>18</sup>"Psychological Aspects of Crime and Fear of Crime," cited in Jack and Sharon S. Goldsmith, Crime and the Elderly (Lexington: Books, 1975), p. 21.

<sup>19</sup>Jack Goldsmith and Noel E. Tomas, "Crimes Against the Elderly: A Continuing National Crisis," Aging, 236-237 (June-July 1974): 10-13.

<sup>20</sup>Younger, "The California Experience, Prevention of Criminal Victimization of the Elderly," p. 29.

<sup>21</sup>Ibid., cited by Younger.

<sup>22</sup>Sicker, "The Elderly and the Criminal Justice System," pp. 23-24.

<sup>23</sup>"Aging as Victimization: Reflections on the American Way of (Ending) Life," in Crime and the Elderly, ed. Goldsmiths, pp. 77-81.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid.

<sup>25</sup>Marlene A. Young Rifai, Justice and Older Americans (Lexington, Massachusetts: D. C. Heath and Company, 1977), pp. 1-3.

<sup>26</sup>Crime and the Elderly, p.3.

<sup>27</sup>Young Rifai, "The Impact of Crime on the Elderly," Prosecutor's Brief (California District Attorneys Association) December 1976, p. 9.

<sup>28</sup>Older Americans' Crime Prevention Research Project, (Portland, Multnomah County Division of Public Safety, 1976).

<sup>29</sup>Louis Harris Poll, 1974, cited in Carl E. Pope and William Feyerherm, "The Effects of Crime on the Elderly," The Police Chief 43 (February 1976): 48-51.

<sup>30</sup>Many polls show that fear of crime is the primary concern. See "Myth and Reality of Aging in America," (1974 Louis Harris Poll).

<sup>31</sup>"Victimization in Old Age," Crime and Delinquency, July 1974, pp. 245-250.

<sup>32</sup>Ibid.

<sup>33</sup>See articles by Richard A. Sundeen, et al., in Goldsmith, Crime and the Elderly, pp. 51 and 67, and by M. Powell Lawton, "The Drama of Southwark Plaza," HUD Challenge, February 1975, pp. 9-13.

<sup>34</sup>Paul H. Hahn, Crime Against the Elderly: A Study in Victimology, (Santa Cruz, California: Davis Publishing Company, 1976), p. 2.

<sup>35</sup>Ibid.

<sup>36</sup>Crimes Against the Aging: Patterns and Prevention, (Kansas City, Missouri: Midwest Research Institute, 1977), and in Goldsmith, Crime and the Elderly, p. 32.

<sup>37</sup>Ibid., (Goldsmith), p. 33.

<sup>38</sup>Ibid., p. 34.

<sup>39</sup>Older Americans' Crime Prevention Research Project.

<sup>40</sup>Ibid., p. 121.

<sup>41</sup>Phillip J. Gross, "Law Enforcement and the Senior Citizen," The Police Chief 43 (February 1976): 24-27.

<sup>42</sup>Poll conducted by U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Aging.

<sup>43</sup>U.S. Congress, House, Report by the Subcommittee on Housing and Consumer Interests of the Select Committee on Aging, 95th Cong., 1st Sess., April 1977, Comm. Pub. 95-87, p. 2.

<sup>44</sup>"Criminal Victimization in the U.S.: 1973 Advance Report;" "Crimes and Victims: A Report on the Dayton-San Jose Pilot Survey of Victimization;" "Surveys in the Nation's Five Largest Cities;" "Criminal Victimization Surveys in 13 American Cities;" and "Crime in Eight American Cities."

<sup>45</sup>95th Cong., 1st Sess., Comm. Pub. 95-87, April 1977, p. 4.

<sup>46</sup>Ibid.

<sup>47</sup>Ibid.

<sup>48</sup>"Victimization in Old Age," p. 246.

<sup>49</sup>Clemente and Kleiman, "Fear of Crime Among the Aged," p. 208.

<sup>50</sup>Ibid., p. 209.

<sup>51</sup>Fay Lomax Cook and Thomas D. Cook, "Evaluating the Rhetoric of Crisis: A Case Study of Victimization of the Elderly," Social Service Review 50 (December 1976): 632-645.

<sup>52</sup>Ibid., p. 632.

<sup>53</sup>Ibid., p. 644.

<sup>54</sup>Fay Lomax Cook, Thomas D. Cook, and Wesley G. Skogan, "Patterns of Personal Crime Against the Elderly," The Gerontologist 17 (April 1977): 321-327.

<sup>55</sup>Ibid., p. 326.

<sup>56</sup>Report by U.S. House Subcommittee on Housing and Consumer Interests, Comm. Pub. 95-87, pp.21-32 (for summaries of all studies except Portland, Oregon). See Lee P. Brown and Marlene A. Young Rifai, The Police Chief 43 (February 1976): 38-42 for the Portland Study.

<sup>57</sup>Ibid., p. 35.

<sup>58</sup>Ibid.

<sup>59</sup>U.S. Congress, House, Report of Hearing by the Sub-Committee on Housing and Consumer Interests of the Select Committee on Aging, Testimony of Jesus Hernandez, 94th Cong., 2nd Sess., held September 18, 1976, in Los Angeles, California, pp. 36-38.

<sup>60</sup>"The California Experience: Prevention of Criminal Victimization of the Elderly," The Police Chief 43 (February 1976): 28-32.



<sup>61</sup>Data provided by Lt. Koller, Sacramento Police Department.

<sup>62</sup>George Nicholson, Thomas W. Cardit and Stuart Greenbaum, eds., Forgotten Victims: An Advocate's Anthology (Sacramento, California: California District Attorneys' Association, 1976), pp. 236-239.

<sup>63</sup>Ibid.

<sup>64</sup>See Bibliography, this thesis, for list of available reports.

<sup>65</sup>Guy D. Boston, (Rockville: National Criminal Justice Reference Service, 1977).

<sup>66</sup>NCJRS, May 1977.

<sup>67</sup>Glenn White, "Where Citizens Help Control Crime," Dynamic Maturity, July 1976, pp. 10-14.

<sup>68</sup>Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Resistance (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1976), pp. 43-50.

<sup>69</sup>(Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1977).

<sup>70</sup>(Washington, D.C.: NRTA/AARP, 1977).

## CHAPTER IV

### ELDERLY RESPONSE PATTERNS TO A COMMUNITY SURVEY

For the past four years (1974-1977) the City of Davis, California, has conducted a community survey as a means of reading the "Community Pulse" concerning the police department particularly with reference to the community's perceptions and expectations of their police department. The survey was primarily developed around four subject areas:

- (1) How respondents feel as residents of the city, do they like or dislike Davis, what is their perception of crime in the city, do they feel safe, etc.
- (2) How the police department and its officers are perceived, what are specific attitudes and perceptions of law enforcement in the community.
- (3) Reactions of those who have interacted with the police department during the past year.
- (4) Demographic characteristics (personal data of the respondents such as age, marital status, education, income, etc.).

The survey was administered to a two percent random sample of Davis households and businesses (not including university dwellings). A similar survey was coincidentally given to members of the police department, with modifications,

which allowed assessment of the officers' perceptions of how they were viewed by the public. The rationale for surveying both the community and the police was to develop a method of measuring changes in the two sub-groups and to compare the perceptions of the two with each other to determine what changes occur over the years. A copy of the survey appears in Appendix 1.<sup>1</sup>

This survey provides an excellent opportunity for assessing specific responses of the elderly in view of patterns and behaviors highlighted in Chapter III of this thesis. A scientific random sampling procedure was used in the survey and the reliability and validity of the survey has been evidenced by consistent demographic data obtained across the years. Also, the survey did not stratify replies of respondents by age sub-groups or characteristics of sub-groups, thus presenting an opportunity to conduct this analysis and possibly identify heretofore unused information. In analyzing this survey, a slight deviation will be made insofar as identification of the elderly group is concerned. To assure an adequate number of respondents the analysis will consider as elderly those persons aged 60 and older (instead of the 65-plus group used up to this point). A brief community profile of the City of Davis follows prior to the actual presentation of the analysis.

Davis is located 14 miles west of Sacramento in Yolo County, California. Its 1977 population was approximately 34,600, with an additional 3,700 students (approximately) seasonally housed on the campus of the University of California, Davis (UCD).<sup>2</sup> It is primarily a "white collar" community with 58 percent of the population employed by the state government, mainly at the university (6,788 full-time and 5,543 part-time employees, and 17,200 students). There are five manufacturing plants in the city area, only two of which--Hunt-Wesson Foods Inc. and Armco Steel--provide more than a few jobs. The 1975 Special Census conducted by the Sacramento Regional Area Planning Commission for the California Department of Finance, indicated a median age of 23 years for city residents and a median household income of \$11,240.<sup>3</sup> The 1977 Davis Community Survey reflects a median age of 30.5 for all respondents (Question 49), and 52 percent of respondents indicated in the survey that they were "not rich, but well-off," (Question 55). The Community Survey also shows a well above average educational level in the city. Ninety-four percent of all respondents were high school graduates and 61 percent reported that they were college graduates. On the question pertaining to minority group identification (Question 53), 90 percent of those answering indicated they were not members of a minority group, while ten percent noted that they were.



The aforementioned 1975 Special Census shows that 1.4 percent of the population was Black (435), 1.6 percent Mexican-American (514), and six percent were in the category of "other ethnicity." The ethnicity was unknown for 6.2 percent of the population and Whites made up approximately 85 percent of Davis residents.<sup>4</sup>

The elderly population of Davis (age 65 and older) was 1,035 in 1975. Of this number, 380 were male and 655 female. There were an additional 1,169 residents in the 55 to 64 age bracket. Ninety-one percent of the elderly were not in the labor force in 1975, five percent were employed full time, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  percent part-time. An increase of approximately 200 elderly people has occurred since that time, based on projected estimates.<sup>5</sup> The age breakdown of respondents for the 1977 Davis Community Survey reveals that of the total sample of 482 there were 59 people age 55 and older, 36 age 60 and older (7.5%), and 21 people age 65 and older (4.3%).<sup>6</sup>

The Davis Police Department consists of 51 personnel of which 12 are unsworn.<sup>7</sup> The department provides a wide range of crime prevention and community-relations programs under the general direction of a Sergeant in the Community Resources Division. While there are no crime prevention programs specifically for the elderly, the department strives to involve the elderly in its regular programs such as home

security inspections and "Operation Identification," the marking of personal property. The elderly also receive crime prevention information and some training from the State Attorney General's programs. There was excellent rapport evident between the police and the city's Senior Center and the police helped sponsor and are actively involved in the "Vial of Life" program which is geared towards assisting the elderly in crisis situations such as residence fires and medical emergencies.

The Police Department records age of crime victims on their reports, but does not maintain data on victims by age. Thus, easily retrievable facts on elderly victimology are not readily available (department records are not automated). However, department supervisory personnel indicate that the elderly have a comparatively low victimization rate with the rest of the population. The occurrence of reported crime is not as pronounced in Davis as it is in most larger cities. Violent crimes against the person such as murder and rape are not common. For all of 1977 there were five murders and nine rapes on police department records.<sup>8</sup> (The murder figures were high in 1977 as there are normally one or two murders per year.) Robbery and assault rates were also low. Crimes against property such as larceny, burglary, and auto-theft constitute most of the reported offenses. Offenses on the UCD campus are

investigated and recorded by the Campus Police. An initial, general observation is that the Davis Police Department is efficient, well motivated, and has a good level of acceptance in the community.

The 1977 Davis Community Survey contains 75 questions. The first analysis made for this thesis was a straight comparison of elderly respondents (percent answering each question or part of question) against all others. Chi Square was used to identify any questions where differences were statistically significant at both the .05 and .01 levels with given degrees of freedom. In the survey exemplar at Appendix 1, on all questions where space and format permits, the percentage of elderly respondents appears first followed by the percentage of all others who answered the particular question (or part of question). Asterisks appear adjacent to those questions which reflect a significant difference between the two groups at the .01 level (two asterisks) and the .05 level (one asterisk). There were a total of 15 questions where responses of the elderly significantly differed from those of all others (Questions 1, 5, 6, 11, 13, 29, 30, 31, 33, 39, 55, 59, 63, 65, and 74).

The next step was to conduct a more specific examination of answers to questions arbitrarily categorized by the writer to be part of the following four areas of interest

which constitute the dependent variables of this study:

- (1) fear of crime;
- (2) perceptions of police effectiveness;
- (3) contact with police; and
- (4) participation in police department programs.

Percentage responses to these questions were broken down by those of the elderly and those less than age 60 for comparative purposes and stratification by the independent variables of sex, education, marital and economic status was selectively accomplished for these two groups. While the survey gave four indicators of marital status (married, single, divorced and widowed), only married was used since the elderly N was too small or imbalanced--as in the case of widowed--to provide meaningful data. A similar situation existed in the case of incomes where the only survey category with an adequate number of elderly respondents was "Not rich, but well-off" (74 percent of the elderly and 50 percent of those less than 60). Accordingly, comparisons between the two age groups involving income used only this category. There was no stratification accomplished in any cases using minority group as an independent variable due to the low number of elderly (3) reporting themselves as minority group members.

Fear of crime was the first dependent variable examined. Two questions were selected from the survey which were



determined to be directly associated with this phenomenon: Question 4, "How safe from crime are you in this city?" and Question 5, "Within the past year, the amount of crime in this city has:..." The thesis research had indicated that fear of crime is disproportionately high among the elderly and, in many instances, this leads to an exaggerated perception on the part of the elderly of the actual crime rate (they normally believe that it is much higher than what it is).<sup>9</sup> Table 1 compares the elderly responses to those of the less than 60 group.

TABLE 1\*  
SAFETY FROM CRIME

Perceptions of Safety	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Much safer (than other places)	20	55.6	209	47.6	229
A little safer	14	38.9	210	48.1	224
A little less safe	2	5.5	16	3.7	18
Much less safe	0	0.0	2	0.6	2
Total	36	100.0	437	100.0	473
(No answer)					(9)

\*Corresponds to Question 4 in Survey at  
Appendix 1.

Table 1 reflects that a higher percentage of elderly respondents (55.6 percent) feel much safer from crime in Davis

than most other places than do those who are less than 60 (47.6 percent). None of the elderly felt much less safe, and only two (0.6 percent) in the less than 60 category chose that response. More than 95 percent of the under 60 respondents, and 94.5 percent of the elderly selected the two highest categories to describe their feelings of personal safety from crime.

In the next set of presented tables, 2 through 7, this same independent variable, safety from crime, is examined using the independent variables of sex, education, marriage and income group in comparing the responses of the elderly and those less than 60. Table 2 contains responses of males and Table 3 of females.

TABLE 2  
SAFETY FROM CRIME--MALES ONLY

Perceptions of Safety	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Much safer (than other places)	11	61.1	96	45.5	107
A little safer	7	38.9	105	49.3	111
A little less safe	0	0.0	10	4.7	10
Much less safe	0	0.0	1	0.5	1
Total	18	100.0	211	100.0	229
(No answer)					(9)

Table 2 indicates that there is an approximate 15 percent difference between elderly males and those under 60 who feel much safer from crime in Davis than most other places. All elderly males selected the two highest categories to describe their feelings of personal safety from crime, while 5.2 percent of the males less than 60 opted for the bottom two categories.

Table 3 shows only a slight difference between elderly females and those less than 60 who feel much safer from crime.

TABLE 3  
SAFETY FROM CRIME--FEMALES ONLY

Perceptions of Safety	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Much safer (than other places)	9	52.9	111	50.5	120
A little safer	6	35.3	102	46.4	108
A little less safe	2	11.8	6	2.7	8
Much less safe	0	0.0	1	0.4	1
Total	17	100.0	220	100.0	237
(No answer)					(7)

Table 3 also shows that more elderly females feel a little less safe from crime in Davis than younger females, a difference of approximately nine percent.

Comparing responses of elderly males and females in Tables 2 and 3 reveals that the males' perception of safety from crime in Davis (much safer or a little safer) is approximately 12 percent higher than the females.

Tables 4 and 5 use the independent variable of education to examine response patterns to the safety from crime question. Table 4 shows responses of high school graduates and Table 5 shows responses of college graduates.

TABLE 4

## SAFETY FROM CRIME--HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Perceptions of Safety	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Much safer (than other places)	16	53.3	201	49.0	217
A little safer	12	40.0	193	47.1	205
A little less safe	2	6.7	14	3.4	16
Much less safe	0	0.0	2	0.5	2
Total	30	100.0	4.0	100.0	440
(No answer)					(16)



TABLE 5

## SAFETY FROM CRIME--COLLEGE GRADUATES

Perceptions of Safety	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Much safer (than other places)	7	50.0	130	48.3	137
A little safer	7	50.0	127	47.2	134
A little less safe	0	0.0	11	4.1	11
Much less safe	0	0.0	1	0.4	1
Total	14	100.0	269	100.0	283
(No answer)					(13)

Comparison of responses of the two age groups in Tables 4 and 5 by level of education reveals that there is little difference. In both tables more than 93 percent of both groups of high school and college graduates scored in the two highest categories of safety from crime.

Table 6 examines the response patterns of married people to the dependent variable of "Safety from crime." The data in this table reveals that married people, both young and old, have similar perceptions of safety from crime. In the four given categories, the widest difference between the two groups was 4.4 percent among those who selected "A little safer" and more than 95 percent of both groups of marrieds chose the two highest categories ("Much safer" and "A little safer").

TABLE 6  
SAFETY FROM CRIME--MARRIED PEOPLE

Perceptions of Safety	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Much safer (than other places)	12	52.2	124	48.2	136
A little safer	10	43.5	123	47.9	133
A little less safe	1	4.3	9	3.5	10
Much less safe	0	0.0	1	0.4	1
Total	23	100.0	257	100.0	280
(No answer)					(6)

The final independent variable used in examining and comparing responses to "Safety from crime" was that of income and, more specifically, those of the elderly and less than 60 who categorized themselves as "well-off." Table 7 provides this information.

TABLE 7\*  
SAFETY FROM CRIME--"WELL-OFF"

Perceptions of Safety	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Much safer (than other places)	14	56.0	109	51.5	123
A little safer	9	36.0	94	44.3	103
A little less safe	2	8.0	9	4.2	11
Much less safe	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Total	25	100.0	212	100.0	237
(No answer)					(3)

\*Corresponds to income levels in  
Question 58 of survey at Appendix 1.

With the exception of an 8.3 percent spread between the elderly and those less than 60 on the category "A little safer," the largest difference between the two groups in Table 7 was no more than 4.5 percent. Income, therefore, did not have a significant bearing on any differences in responses between the two age groups.

The second selected indicator to assess fear of crime among survey respondents was the perception of crime and whether it was believed to be increasing or decreasing. Table 8 deals with this question.

TABLE 8  
CRIME RATES\*

Perceptions of Crime	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Up a lot	7	20.6	64	15.5	71
Up a little	17	50.0	200	48.5	217
About the same	6	17.6	136	33.0	142
Down a little	4	11.8	10	3.0	14
Total	34	100.0	410	100.0	444
(No answer)					(38)

\*Corresponds to Question 5 in  
Survey at Appendix 1.

Table 8 shows that 5.1 percent more of the elderly than those less than 60 thought that crime was "Up a lot" and close to nine percent more of the elderly thought it was

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"Down a little." A wider difference between the two age groups occurred in the category of "About the same" where there were 17.6 percent of the elderly compared with 33 percent of those less than 60.

Analysis of the dependent variable "Fear of crime" in Tables 1 through 8 does not support the expected conclusion that the elderly would evidence a higher fear of crime than those less than 60 years of age. In fact, the opposite was true, as shown in Table 1 where 55.6 percent of the elderly felt "much safer" in Davis as compared to 47.6 percent of those under 60. This highest perception of safety held constant through the use of various independent variables in Tables 2 through 7, ranging from a 15.6 percent spread for males (Table 2) to a 1.7 percent spread for college graduates. Only in the case of Table 3, where 11.8 percent of elderly females indicated they felt "A little less safe from crime" as compared to 2.7 percent of females under 60, was there a parallel finding to general national data noted in this thesis, Chapter 3.

In reference to perception of crime in the city and impressions of the crime rate noted in Table 8, the elderly again scored differently than might have been expected. While approximately five percent more of the elderly thought that crime was "Up a lot," 8.8 percent more noted that it was "Down a little."

It is the opinion of the writer that these findings are strongly influenced by the unique character of the City of Davis and the socio-economic compositions of its residents. The majority of the literature dealing with crime and the elderly and the problems of the elderly with the fear of crime deal primarily with large urban areas, particularly the inner-cities where many poor and destitute elderly people are forced to stay because they have no way out. An almost completely opposite situation exists in Davis as evidenced by the 74 percent of elderly survey respondents who reported that they were "not rich, but well-off" and the 40 percent who are college graduates. An added contributing factor deals with length of residency in Davis. The mean length of residence in Davis for the elderly survey-takers was 23.5 years, compared to 8.2 years for those under 60.<sup>10</sup> The elderly are evidently more comfortable in their community, and less afraid of crime because they are highly stable and settled and experience little of the turbulence and marked neighborhood changes that their big-city counterparts must cope with. A caveat is included at this point; the writer has inferred that fear of crime can be related to, or derived from, the elderly's perceptions of "safety from crime" and their perceptions of the rate of crime. While this may be a safe inference, it is not as valid as having questions that

directly address the issue such as "Are you willing to walk alone at night in your neighborhood?" or, more directly, "Are you afraid of being victimized by crime in this community?"

The comparatively low crime rate in the City of Davis referred to earlier in this chapter would also appear to have a bearing on the low level of fear of crime among elderly residents. The concomitantly low victimization of the elderly lends credence to this possibility.

The second dependent variable chosen for analysis, "Perceptions of police effectiveness," is examined in Tables 9 through 16. Two questions were selected from the survey as being closely related to this variable: (1) Question 6, "How good a job would you say the Davis Police Department is doing in solving crime?" and (2) Question 8, "Overall, how well does it do these other things?" The thesis research had indicated that the elderly are generally strong supporters of the police and can be expected to give good ratings to the way the police carry out their duties.<sup>11</sup> Table 9 compares the responses of the elderly and the less than 60 group on the variable of police effectiveness through an examination of the survey respondents' perceptions of the ability of police to effectively solve crime.

TABLE 9\*

## POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME SOLVING

Perceptions of Effectiveness	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Very good job	18	52.9	132	31.8	150
O.K. job	13	38.2	257	61.9	270
Not too good	3	8.9	20	4.8	23
Very bad job	0	0.0	6	1.5	6
Total	34	100.0	415	100.0	449
(No answer)					(33)

\*Corresponds to Question 6 in Survey at Appendix 1.

Table 9 reveals that the majority of the elderly respondents (52.9 percent) perceived the police as doing "a very good job" in crime solving (the highest category) compared with only 31.8 percent of the less than 60 group who selected this category. The majority of the less than 60 group (61.9 percent) perceived the police as doing an "O.K. Job" of crime solving, while 38.2 percent of the elderly opted for this description. None of the elderly described the police crime solving effectiveness as "Very bad," while 1.5 percent of those less than 60 chose this category.

Table 10 examines the same variable using responses of males only.



TABLE 10  
POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME SOLVING  
(MALES ONLY)

Perceptions of Effectiveness	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Very good job	7	41.2	47	23.6	54
O.K. job	7	41.2	134	67.3	141
Not too good	3	17.6	13	6.5	16
Very bad job	0	0.0	5	2.6	5
Total	17	100.0	199	100.0	216
(No answer)					(22)

Elderly males rated police department crime solving effectiveness evenly, between "very good" and "O.K." (41.2 percent for each category), while 23.6 percent of males under 60 selected "very good" and a much larger 67.3 percent opted for the "O.K." description. Conversely, 17.6 percent of elderly males perceived police crime solving effectiveness as "Not too good" compared with 6.5 percent of the under 60 group.

Table 11 shows strong elderly females perception of police effectiveness in crime solving.

TABLE 11  
POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME SOLVING  
(FEMALES ONLY)

Perceptions of Effectiveness	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Very good job	11	68.8	82	39.0	93
O.K. job	5	31.2	120	57.1	125
Not too good	0	0.0	7	3.4	7
Very bad job	0	0.0	1	0.5	1
Total	16	100.0	210	100.0	226
(No answer)					(18)

Approximately 69 percent of elderly females selected the "Very good" category compared with 39 percent of females less than 60. The remaining 31.2 percent of elderly females selected the "O.K." description and no elderly females perceived police crime solving effectiveness as "Not too good" or "Very bad." A total of 3.9 percent of females under 60 chose these two lowest descriptions.

Tables 12 and 13 use the independent variable of education to conduct further analysis of responses concerning police crime solving ability. Table 12 contains responses of high school graduates and Table 13, college graduates.

TABLE 12  
POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME SOLVING  
(HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES)

Perceptions of Effectiveness	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Very good job	15	53.6	124	32.0	139
O.K. job	10	35.7	241	62.2	251
Not too good	3	10.7	18	4.7	21
Very bad job	0	0.0	4	1.1	4
Total	28	100.0	387	100.0	415
(No answer)					(41)

TABLE 13  
POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME SOLVING  
(COLLEGE GRADUATES)

Perceptions of Effectiveness	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Very good job	4	33.3	85	33.3	89
O.K. job	6	50.0	152	59.6	158
Not too good	2	16.7	14	5.5	16
Very bad job	0	0.0	4	1.6	4
Total	12	100.0	255	100.0	267
(No answer)					(29)

Table 12 shows that 21.6 percent more elderly high school graduates perceived the police as doing a "very good" job in crime solving than those less than 60. The majority of the under 60 high school graduates (62.2 percent) selected the "O.K." category, compared to 35.7 percent of the elderly who made a similar choice. A larger percentage of elderly high school graduates perceived police crime solving effectiveness as "Not too good" (10.7 percent vs. 4.7 percent). No elderly high school graduates perceived police crime solving as "very bad," while 1.1 percent of the under 60 group selected this category. The responses of college graduates in Table 13 showed a marked difference from those of high school graduates among the elderly group. The same percentage of college graduates (33.3 percent) among the elderly and less than 60 group indicated they perceived police effectiveness in crime solving as "very good." The majority of both groups of college graduates (50 percent of elderly and 59.6 percent under 60) thought the police were doing an "O.K." job of crime solving, and 16.7 percent of elderly college graduates selected the category of "Not too good" to express their perception of police crime solving effectiveness. No elderly college graduates selected the lowest category of "very bad" while 1.6 percent of those under 60 made this choice.

Table 14 contains the responses of married people.



TABLE 14  
POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME SOLVING  
(MARRIED PEOPLE)

Perceptions of Effectiveness	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Very good job	8	38.0	83	33.6	91
O.K. job	10	47.7	152	61.5	162
Not too good	3	14.3	9	3.6	12
Very bad job	0	0.0	3	1.3	3
Total	21	100.0	247	100.0	268
(No answer)					(18)

In Table 14 a slightly higher percentage of married elderly respondents than those under 60 (38 percent vs 33.6 percent), believed the police to be doing a very good job of crime solving. A wider spread existed between the two groups among those who perceived the police to be doing an "O.K. job" of crime solving: 47.7 percent of elderly and 61.5 percent of those less than 60. The widest difference between elderly and under 60 marrieds on Table 14 came in the category of "Not too good" where 14.3 percent of the elderly and 3.6 percent of those less than 60 indicated this preference. No elderly marrieds selected the "very bad" description, while 1.3 percent of the less than 60 group made this choice.

Table 15 contains the last independent variable used--those who were categorized as "well-off" in income--to examine responses pertaining to police crime solving.

TABLE 15  
POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME SOLVING  
"WELL-OFF"\*

Perceptions of Effectiveness	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Very good job	12	52.2	72	35.1	84
O.K. job	9	39.1	120	58.5	129
Not too good	2	8.7	9	4.4	11
Very bad job	0	0.0	4	2.0	4
Total	23	100.0	205	100.0	228
(No answer)					(12)

\*Corresponds to income levels in Question 58 of survey at Appendix 1.

Table 15 shows that the majority of elderly "well-offs" (52.2 percent) perceived police crime solving effectiveness as "very good" compared to 35.1 percent of those under 60 who chose a similar response. The next highest category, "O.K. job" was selected by 39.1 percent of the elderly and 58.5 percent of those less than 60. A higher percentage of the elderly, 8.7 percent, than those under 60, 4.4 percent perceived the police crime solving effec-

tiveness as "not too good," while none of the elderly and two percent of those less than 60 selected the "very bad" description.

The second selected indicator used to assess the dependent variable of perceptions of police effectiveness among survey respondents was an interrogatory pertaining to police job effectiveness and how well the police performed a number of given service-oriented tasks. Results are shown in Table 16.

TABLE 16\*  
POLICE DEPARTMENT JOB EFFECTIVENESS

How well done	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Very good job	17	53.1	158	40.7	175
O.K. job	15	46.9	218	56.2	233
Not too good	0	0.0	9	2.3	9
Very bad job	0	0.0	3	0.8	3
Total	32	100.0	388	100.0	420
(No answer)					(62)

\*Corresponds to Question 8 in survey  
at Appendix 1.

Table 16 shows that 12.4 percent more of the elderly than those under 60 perceived police job effectiveness as "very good" while 46.9 percent of the elderly and 56.2 percent of the less than 60 group thought it was "O.K."

None of the elderly opted for the lowest two descriptions of effectiveness, while 2.3 percent of those under 60 selected "not too good" and 0.8 percent chose "very bad."

Analysis of the dependent variable, "Perceptions of police effectiveness" in Tables 9 through 16 supports the expected conclusion and the earlier referenced national findings that the elderly are generally strong supporters of the criminal justice system and, particularly, the police. While several elderly respondents (8.9 percent) indicated in Table 9 that the police were not doing too good a job of crime solving, the majority of the elderly, 52.9 percent perceived the police as being "very good" in crime solving effectiveness and in overall job effectiveness (53.1 percent in Table 16). Elderly females were the strongest supporters of the police as evidenced in Table 11 where 68.8 percent of the elderly women perceived the police as doing a "very good job" of crime solving compared with 39 percent of females less than 60 who chose the same description. The writer believes that some support for this phenomenon lies in the demographic data presented earlier in this chapter and in Chapter 2 of this thesis. Elderly women outlive their husbands by an average of seven years and approximately two-thirds of all older women are widows.<sup>12</sup> Since many of these elderly women live alone, they look to the police as the agency they



would call in time of distress. This sentiment was expressed by several elderly females interviewed by the writer and also by police department officials working most closely with the elderly. This segment of elderly females could thus be expected to be highly supportive of the police.

Examination of other independent variables in relation to perceptions of police effectiveness reveals that elderly married people and elderly college graduates have the lowest perceptions of police effectiveness. In Table 13, the same percentage of elderly and less than 60 college graduates, 33.3 percent, perceived police crime solving effectiveness as "very good" compared to a spread of plus 21.1 percent for the elderly involving all respondents in Table 9. There were also 16.7 percent of elderly college graduates who indicated police effectiveness in solving crime was "not too good." This was the highest percentage among the elderly for a derogatory finding among all the independent variables. A closely similar pattern was evident among elderly married people as reflected in Table 14.

This writer has no explanation for these comparatively lower perceptions of police effectiveness by elderly college graduates and married people. However, it should be noted that the small number of elderly respondents in these independent variables must be objectively considered

before any firm conclusions are drawn (12 elderly college graduates and 21 elderly married people).

The third dependent variable selected for analysis was "contact with the police" and this variable is examined in Tables 17 through 25. Three questions were selected from the Davis Community Survey as being closely related to this variable:

- (1) Question 38 - In the past year did you call the Davis Police Department?
- (2) Question 39 - In the past year has a Davis Police Officer questioned you?
- (3) Question 9 - Usually, how many times a week do you see Davis Police Officers?

There is some support in the thesis research that "while the elderly tend to be supportive of the criminal justice system in theory, in practice, they tend to avoid contact with the police."<sup>13</sup>

Table 17 compares responses of the elderly and the under 60 group on the variable of contact with the police by determining if these groups had called the police. The table reveals that a smaller percentage of elderly, 44.4 percent, called the police in the past year than did those under 60, where 55.6 percent of the respondents did so.

TABLE 17\*  
CONTACTING POLICE DEPARTMENT

Called Police Department	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Yes	16	44.4	245	55.6	261
No	20	55.6	195	44.4	215
Total	36	100.0	440	100.0	476
(No answer)					(6)

\*Corresponds with Question 38 in  
Survey at Appendix 1.

Tables 18 through 23 involve the same independent variable, contacting police, with the stated independent variables.

TABLE 18  
CONTACTING POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MALES ONLY

Called Police Department	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Yes	7	38.9	128	59.3	135
No	11	61.1	87	40.7	98
Total	18	100.0	215	100.0	233
(No answer)					(15)

Table 18 indicates that 20.4 percent fewer elderly males called the police department in the past year than

males less than 60 (38.9 percent vs 59.3 percent).

TABLE 19  
CONTACTING POLICE DEPARTMENT  
FEMALES ONLY

Called Police Department	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Yes	9	52.9	115	51.8	124
No	8	47.1	107	48.2	115
Total	17	100.0	222	100.0	239
(No answer)					(5)

Table 19 shows that among females, the percentage that called the police during the past year was almost equal. Of the elderly group, 52.9 percent called, compared with 51.8 percent of those under 60.

Table 20 looks at the responses of high school graduates.

TABLE 20  
CONTACTING POLICE DEPARTMENT  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Called Police Department	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Yes	13	43.3	232	56.1	245
No	17	56.7	182	43.9	199
Total	30	100.0	414	100.0	444
(No answer)					(12)



A total of 43.3 percent of high school graduates called the police during the past year compared to 56.1 percent of the less than 60 group.

TABLE 21  
CONTACTING POLICE DEPARTMENT  
COLLEGE GRADUATES

Called Police Department	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Yes	6	42.9	151	55.5	157
No	8	57.1	121	44.5	129
Total	14	100.0	272	100.0	286
(No answer)					(10)

Table 21 reveals that among college graduates, 42.9 percent of the elderly and 55.5 percent of those less than 60 called the police during the past year.

TABLE 22  
CONTACTING POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MARRIED PEOPLE

Called Police Department	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Yes	10	43.5	158	60.3	168
No	13	56.5	104	39.7	117
Total	23	100.0	262	100.0	285
(No answer)					(1)

Table 22 shows that less elderly married people, 43.5 percent, called the police during the past year than did married people under 60 (60.3 percent).

Table 23 uses as an independent variable those respondents categorized as being "well-off" in income.

TABLE 23  
CONTACTING POLICE DEPARTMENT  
"WELL-OFF"\*

Called Police Department	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Yes	12	48.0	110	51.2	122
No	13	52.0	105	48.8	118
Total	25	100.0	215	100.0	240
(No answer)					(0)

\*Corresponds to income levels in  
Question 58 of Survey at Appendix 1.

Table 23 indicates that among the "well-off" group, there was only a slight difference in the percentage of elderly and those less than 60 who called the police during the past year; 48.0 percent for the elderly and 51.2 percent for the under 60 group.

A second selected indicator used to assess the dependent variable of "contact with the police" was those respondents who had been questioned by the police. Table 24

lists the findings.

TABLE 24\*  
QUESTIONED BY POLICE

Had been questioned	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Yes	4	11.4	182	41.7	186
No	21	88.6	254	58.3	285
Total	35	100.0	436	100.0	471
(No answer)					(11)

\*Corresponds to Question 39 in  
Survey at Appendix 1.

Table 24 shows that only a small percentage of the elderly, 11.4 percent, were questioned by the police during the past year compared with 41.7 percent of those less than 60 who experienced such questioning. No further independent variables were used with this table due to the small number of elderly involved (4).

A final indicator used in an effort to determine contact with the police was a survey question which attempted to discover how often respondents saw police officers on a weekly basis. Table 25 records this data.

TABLE 25\*  
SEE POLICE OFFICERS

Frequency of view (weekly)	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
1 - 5	15	53.6	187	50.0	202
6 - 10	11	39.2	137	36.6	148
11 - 15	2	7.2	25	6.7	27
16+	0	0.0	25	6.7	25
Total**	28	100.0	374	100.0	402
(No answer)					(80)

\*Corresponds to Question 9 in  
Survey at Appendix 1.

\*\*Mean number of sightings is 4.6  
times per week by people over 60  
and 6.6 by those under 60.

Table 25 reveals that the elderly saw police officers on a weekly basis at a slightly higher frequency on the first three categories listed in this table. None of the elderly reported seeing police officers more than 16 times per week while 6.7 percent of those under 60 selected this category (which results in the higher mean number of sightings by the under 60 group).

Analysis of the dependent variable, "contact with police" in the Davis Community Survey indicates a tendency of elderly respondents not to call the police as often as



their younger comparison group. This finding corresponds with the referenced thesis research cited earlier in this chapter. As shown by Table 24, only a small percentage of the elderly also had been questioned by the police during the past year. This writer believes that the very life style of the elderly is largely responsible for these findings, particularly in the City of Davis with its aforementioned unique socio-economic/demographic characteristics and its relatively low crime rate. Conversations with workers in senior citizen centers, police departments and government offices on aging revealed that even when many elderly persons are in need of police assistance they are often reluctant to directly ask for it. Of the various reasons offered to explain this behavior, the one most commonly heard was that the elderly strive to maintain some element of independence in their lives, have much pride, and do not want to give the impression that they cannot take care of themselves or cope with problem situations. Too, in most of the research for this thesis, the elderly persons under study were residents of large cities, living in depressed areas with high crime and personal victimization rates, and who were most often living on fixed incomes that are close to, or below, poverty levels. This is not the case in Davis; in fact, the opposite is true.

The finding that the elderly survey respondents see police officers less infrequently than those less than 60 (Table 25) can be attributed to the tendency of the elderly to remain at home more often and not to be as actively involved in community endeavors as the survey respondents under 60.

Of the several tables pertaining to contacting the police, two independent variables show a pattern of calling the police different from the others. In Table 19, elderly females, and in Table 23, elderly people in the income category of "well-off," called the police during the past year at a markedly higher percentage than the elderly respondents in the other independent variables. This writer attributes the higher call rate of females--particularly elderly females--to their status of living alone and not having a husband (probably deceased) available to assist them. The higher police call rate of the elderly "well-off" group could be relative to the fact that affluent people are normally more cognizant of community services due to their past higher involvement in community operations, and thus may not be as hesitant to call for a service to which they know they are entitled.

The final dependent variable selected for analysis from the survey was "participation in police department programs," and this variable was examined in Tables 26 and

27 through the means of two survey questions determined to be applicable:

- (1) Question 71 - Have you taken part with the Davis Police Department in any of the following programs?
- (2) Question 66 - Have you participated in the Property I.D. Program?

The thesis research had indicated that although the elderly are not by nature "joiners," they can be prodded and stimulated to take part in police programs.<sup>14</sup> There is, in fact, a growing belief that the development of programs for reducing the victimization of the elderly and for incorporating the vast resources of our senior population into the police service must be given sufficient attention by police planners and administrators.<sup>15</sup>

Table 26 pertains to overall citizen participation in Davis Police Department programs.

TABLE 26\*

PARTICIPATION IN POLICE PROGRAMS

Participated	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Yes	7	22.6	84	19.6	91
No	24	77.4	343	80.4	367
Total	31	100.0	427	100.0	458
(No answer)					(24)

\*Corresponds to Question 71 of Survey at Appendix 1.

Table 26 shows that the elderly participated in police programs at a slightly higher percentage than those under 60, 22.6 percent vs 19.6 percent, but the overall participation rate for all survey respondents seems low. Table 27 also shows that approximately one-fourth of survey respondents had participated in a specialized property identification program.

TABLE 27\*  
PROPERTY I.D. PROGRAM

Participated	Over 60	%	Under 60	%	Total
Yes	7	24.1	109	25.1	116
No	22	75.9	326	74.9	348
Total	29	100.0	435	100.0	464
(No answer)					(18)

\*Corresponds with Question 66  
of Survey at Appendix 1.

Due to the low number of elderly responses to the questions used to construct Tables 26 and 27, no further stratification using various independent variables was accomplished. In analyzing the limited findings on the dependent variable "participation in police department programs," it would appear that the results are not much different, and may in fact be better than those encountered by other police departments. Citizens in general are



lackadaisical about participating in most public programs and many avoid police programs until they become victimized and develop a vested interest.

As mentioned several times in the analytical comments made about findings in this study, the city of Davis is far from a microcosm of "Main Street, USA." It is an affluent middle to upper class, predominantly white, community. Its crime rate is comparatively low and its quality of life high. It does not have the multitude of crime problems encountered by elderly citizens in most of the studies examined in Chapter 3. Accordingly, the responses of participants in the referenced Community Survey can be expected to, and do, mirror their favorable living environment. This factor, of course, also limits the transferability of the gathered data to any locations other than Davis.

It nevertheless does provide useful information, since it yields facts about the elderly in a type of community that is not normally studied and shows that there are a number of similarities regardless of locale. It also presents a workable methodology for analysis and establishes a base upon which further studies can be predicated.

## FOOTNOTES: CHAPTER IV

<sup>1</sup>Survey developed by, and information on survey background obtained from, Dr. Peter S. Venezia, Department Psychologist, Davis Police Department.

<sup>2</sup>Data current to 1977 provided by Davis Area Chamber of Commerce.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>California Department of Finance, Census Report, (Sacramento: Department of Finance, Population Research Unit, 1975), p. 18.

<sup>5</sup>Estimates provided by Sacramento Regional Area Planning Commission, Sacramento, California.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>Data provided by Sgt. Ripple, Davis Police Department.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>Chapter 3, this thesis, pp. 29 through 33, and 36, 44, 45, 46, and 53.

<sup>10</sup>Davis Community Survey, 1977, p. 1, Question 1 (see Appendix 1, this thesis).

<sup>11</sup>See Pope and Feyerherm, "The Effects of Crime on the Elderly," p. 50; Older American's Crime Research Project, p. 43; and An Evaluation of the Sacramento Police Department Victim Services Project (Sacramento: Arthur Young and Company, 1976), pp. 36.

<sup>12</sup>See this thesis, pp. 16-17 and The Davis Community Survey, Appendix 1, this thesis, questions 59-62.

<sup>13</sup>June R. Sherwood, in The Police Yearbook (Gaithersburg, Maryland: International Association of Chiefs of Police, 1977), p. 87.

<sup>14</sup>Interviews with Lt. Koller, Sacramento Police Department and Sgt. Ripple, Davis Police Department.

<sup>15</sup>Phillip Gross, "Crime, Safety, and the Senior Citizen," The Police Chief 44 (February 1977): 18-26.

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

When we view the extraordinary fragility of the life of the older person; the bitterness of rejection by society at large; the eating up of meager assets by inflation; the successive insults of the aging process itself; the inability to work creatively at economically producing tasks; the dispersal of the reassuring family--in light of all the foregoing--the impact of crime on the old can be catastrophic.

Morton R. Leeds  
Special Assistant  
U.S. Department of  
Housing and Urban  
Development<sup>1</sup>

This thesis has presented a number of pertinent considerations pertaining to crime and the elderly and some of what the writer believes to be are the more significant issues related to the problem. The attempt has been made to establish the position that the elderly do suffer extensive criminal victimization and, more often than not, are not given appropriate recognition. The fact that the elderly may be under-victimized in most categories of crime against the person does not negate the reality that the elderly still require special attention and treatment because of the way that crime differentially impacts upon them.

The thesis has presented, or referred to, data to support the fact that there are significant numbers of elderly people being victimized, that the victimization rate is increasing, and that the older American in the inner city is disproportionately the victim of crime. Of the 24 million men and women in the United States who are 65 or older, more than 60 percent reside in metropolitan areas. These inner city elderly are more likely than the rest of the population to be victimized repeatedly, often by the same offender or offenders. They tend not to report the crimes against them because of fear of reprisals, a belief that the police cannot recover their property (particularly when it is not marked), and because they do not want to admit they have been victimized, thinking that the admission would be seen as a failure on their part. They are, in most cases, the victims of young offenders who exploit the elderly because of their increased vulnerability.

Data from various surveys and studies, both local and national, on crime and the elderly were presented in Chapter 3 to provide background and scope on the extent of the problem. A number of exemplary police programs for the elderly were also covered as well as the primary agencies who are dealing with the subject and who can provide additional information. Replies of elderly



respondents to the 1977 Davis Community Survey were examined in Chapter 4 and compared with the responses of survey participants less than 60. Similarities and/or differences between research findings for this thesis and the findings in the Community Survey were commented upon in the analysis given to four specific dependent variables chosen from the survey.

The thesis research pointed out that, as with other aspects of victimization, the criminal justice and social service systems have not yet developed adequate reporting systems to identify, plot, and, ultimately, ameliorate the elderly's sufferings from crime. There is, however, a growing improvement trend which started out slowly in the early 1970s and has steadily gained momentum. Conferences and symposiums on crime and the elderly are now more the rule than the exception and more literature on the subject is available. Authoritative writers and lecturers specializing in elderly crime such as Jack and Sharon Goldsmith, Paul Hahn, Marlene Young-Rifai, M. Powell Lawton and George M. Sunderland are in increasing demand and more professionals are now directing their attention to the subject. The dates of publication of the works listed in the bibliography to this thesis bear witness to the growing amount of attention. As recently as a few years ago no authors evidently deemed it worthwhile to write

books on crime and the elderly. Now there are several books available and more being written.<sup>2</sup>

The research for this thesis further revealed that a number of specialized agencies, government and private, have been, and are currently, engaged in research to gain more knowledge about how crime does affect the elderly. The Center for Studies in Aging at North Texas University, The Andrus Gerontology Center at the University of Southern California, The Midwest Research Institute, Kansas City, Missouri, The International Association of Chiefs of Police, and The National Retired Teachers' Association (Crime Prevention Service) are but a few of the more prominent of these agencies.

One thing that is really needed for future research and program development is consolidation and resource development of the data and research currently available. The books by the Goldsmiths and Young-Rifai<sup>3</sup> are a step in the right direction, as are some of the aforementioned national conferences on justice and the older Americans. Efforts such as these help in drawing sounder conclusions and close many of the gaps in research. One of the most energetic and promising efforts to close the research gap is currently underway in the form of the first multi-faceted national program directed specifically towards crime and the elderly. The central role in this effort

is being played by the national Program on Criminal Justice and the Elderly (PCJE), part of the National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSC) in Washington, D.C. Designed to test ways to curtail victimization of the elderly and to improve society's response after a crime has occurred, the program is part of NCSC's Legal Research and Services for the Elderly. At the local level, PCJE is currently coordinating seven demonstration projects in six major cities all of which are implementing strategies to reduce the rate and impact of crime against older citizens. PCJE coordinates the programs at the national level and will provide evaluation of the demonstration projects, conduct national research, and function as a resource center for information on the problem of crime against the elderly.<sup>4</sup>

Perhaps the most promising and far reaching aspect of the PCJE effort will be the national evaluation of the neighborhood programs to be conducted by the Behavioral Sciences Laboratory at the University of Cincinnati. This evaluation is being sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The goal of the evaluation is to learn more about successful techniques of crime prevention and victim assistance and how to mount a successful program. The methodology will entail a two-pronged evaluation of the seven demonstration projects including

an assessment of the programs' impact in the target neighborhoods and an assessment of the activities that the projects are implementing.<sup>5</sup>

The National Resource Center of the project will provide information on programs and research on crime and the elderly. Training materials, lists of resource persons, project directories and bibliographies, are all being assembled by the program staff. The Center will also act as a referral service directing inquiries to other appropriate sources or projects. The goal of the Center is to develop a comprehensive picture of the state of the art concerning crime and the elderly.

The PCJE project is stressed because its main thrust is directed towards breaking down and eliminating the communication barriers that so often exist or develop between the police and the elderly. In fact, this writer's primary recommendation based upon research for this thesis would be for every police department to make a concerted effort to become thoroughly familiar with its elderly constituency and to do what is necessary to insure clear lines of communication do exist. There are still many law enforcement officials who are not aware of the special needs of elderly persons and changes by these officials in their attitudes toward, and responses to, elderly crime victims have been slow. Law enforcement must strive



towards fostering the development of awareness among its officers--an awareness that the elderly victim requires a special response which embodies concern and compassion. Since the major problem appears to center on the poor, inner city elderly resident and not the more affluent, better educated, middle-class elderly, it is the former group that needs attention, direction and understanding. This is not to imply that only this group of elderly be assisted and all others be left to fare on their own. It indicates only that certain priorities are necessary, and the major needs must be addressed first, but all the elderly regardless of social class or station are deserving of specialized police care.

The research also indicates that additional study is needed on the psychological impact of crime upon the older victim. What type of impact is felt? Does it last longer than among other groups of the population? Does it alter the behavior of the elderly more than other age groups? The further, and hopefully definitive, measurement of the elusive quantity of fear and its alleged profound impact on the elderly is also needed. What is the best way to dissipate the high level of fear of crime held by many of the elderly? Is the fear related to true perceptions of reality? More concrete development of evaluation programs can help answer these, and many other questions.

There is one point that does appear to be clear. The answers to the problems of the elderly will not be found in a vacuum or through a unilateral approach. The senior citizen must be examined in the total perspective of the community around him/her. Crime prevention and resistance programs may be interesting and helpful, but in and of themselves will not serve to answer the needs of senior citizens. Likewise, victim assistance programs are surely necessary, but are an answer only to the calamity, not to the real problem. It appears that there is a growing consensus that only an incorporation of all resources among the community network can really aid in reducing both crime and the fear of crime among older adults. There must be a network response to the problem, a weaving together of a criminal justice and social services blanket which will provide adequate cover and support for the elderly, particularly in areas most affected by residential mobility and economic factors. This seems to be one of the major keys in addressing the problem. It must be further recognized that every area (city, community, etc.) is different and that each has unique characteristics that require persons working with the elderly to be selective in the types of assistance programs chosen for implementation.

Even a city such as Davis, with comparatively few problems with crime and the elderly can become much more

aware of the needs of elderly citizens by analyzing on hand data in police records and, even more fruitful, by doing an analysis of elderly respondents in the annual community survey such as the analysis conducted by this writer. A wealth of data is on hand waiting only for the proper means of exploitation. Few cities are fortunate enough to have an annual community survey conducted and the police department should insure it receives maximum benefits from the survey. For example, questions on crime victimization would provide a good indicator on how much crime is not being reported and why. Other cities that do not have recurring surveys such as that in Davis, could do selected analyses of their records to get an idea of how much elderly victimology is taking place and also could conduct random sample surveys of the elderly populace to determine the extent of the problem and what corrective action could be taken.

For all police departments this writer recommends one officer (or group of officers) be appointed either full or part-time as an elderly advocate, or specialist, to specifically deal with the elderly and serve as a focal point in the department for all questions and programs concerning the elderly. This person(s) should become thoroughly knowledgeable about the elderly in the community and should coordinate with supervisory personnel to insure that all

officers are given initial and recurring training on the special needs and handling of the elderly, and are aware of the social service agencies that the elderly can be referred to when necessary. Of special importance, officers must be taught to understand that communication habits, often quite satisfactory in dealing with younger persons, are not always adequate when dealing with the elderly. An outstanding training manual for this purpose, Law Enforcement and Older Persons has been prepared for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration by the National Retired Teachers Association/American Association of Retired Persons.<sup>6</sup> Completed in late 1977, the manual provides a course of instruction which covers fundamental information on the process of aging and translates certain facts about aging into practical application by law enforcement officers to help them increase their efficiency. The course reviews criminal victimization of older persons and encourages officers to look beyond statistics to consider the varying impacts of crime on the elderly. It also deals with communicating with older persons and places heavy emphasis on trying to improve the police officer's effectiveness through better communications. The underlying assumptions of the course are that a knowledge of the facts of aging can enhance law enforcement officers' relationships with older persons, can help them avoid



viewing older persons in the same stereotypical image as does much of the rest of society, and can assist in their delivery of services to protect the elderly.<sup>7</sup> This writer highly endorses this ready-to-use training package for all police departments who do not have a comprehensive program for working with the elderly. Police executives, trainers, and above all, police officers who work with older persons should find it of value.

For a number of final recommendations to enhance the status of the elderly and reduce criminal victimization against them, the writer fully concurs with, and endorses the proposals listed below made by the U.S. House Select Committee on Aging. If acted upon, these recommendations could have a far-reaching effect on the quality of life of the U.S. elderly population.<sup>8</sup>

(1) Congress should enact legislation that would provide assistance to states which operate programs to compensate crime victims. (Such legislation would provide grants to states with crime victim compensation programs, act as an incentive to states that do not have programs, and provide special compensations for the elderly due to their unique needs and inability to quickly recover from an act of crime.) Of special importance to the elderly is the need for emergency assistance for such items as food, rent, utilities and other essentials. The costs could be

recovered from any compensation that the victim would receive. If the funds from a recently-cashed social security check are stolen, elderly victims do not normally have the means of paying rent or buying food until their next month's check arrives. A Victim Advocate for the elderly should be appointed in all large cities, either in police departments or in the social services.

(2) Congress should enact legislation to create a Central Office of Criminal Justice Statistics within the Department of Justice. (This office would be responsible for gathering and analyzing all national data on crime. A major stumbling block to helping crime victims, especially the elderly, has been the lack of available and uniform data and the limited knowledge on the relationship of crime to age.)

(3) Some national assistance on home security for the elderly should be provided. Various current laws, especially the Social Security Act and the Older Americans Act of 1965, could be amended to help prevent burglaries, the most frequent crime perpetrated against the elderly. Simple home modifications, particularly around doors and windows and the installation of security devices would reduce both the fear of crime and the actual victimization.

(4) The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) should give priority to projects dedicated to the

elderly, i.e. age segregated housing and ensure adequate security for the residents to include minimum standards and adequate guidelines to ensure that security personnel can perform their duties efficiently. HUD should also begin incorporating security and safety features into all federally assisted housing for the elderly. (Too many poorly planned and badly managed HUD projects have compounded, instead of helped, the elderly crime problem.)

(5) Federal funds should be allocated to develop a linkage mechanism between police departments and local service agencies. Police departments are often called to perform social services for which they are not trained nor do they have adequate resources of manpower to perform these duties along with their many other responsibilities.

These are but a few of the many recommendations that could substantially improve the condition of our elderly population. None are far-fetched; in fact, most are overdue and should be speedily implemented. It is unfortunate and unnecessary to see the continual criminal exploitation of a large segment of our population when much can be done to avoid it. Hopefully, the coming decade will realize a both safer and healthier environment for our elderly and a significant reduction in their criminal victimization and we will not have to look at so many destitute people and think, "There, but for the grace of God, go I."

## FOOTNOTES: CHAPTER V

<sup>1</sup>Quoted in "Crime and Apprehension Plague the Elderly: Four Federal Agencies Try to Help," Aging 281-282 (March-April, 1978): 26.

<sup>2</sup>Due for publication in September, 1978, is: Alan A. Malinchak, Crime and Gerontology: The Venerable (Vulnerable) Americans, Prentice-Hall, Inc.

<sup>3</sup>Crime and the Elderly, and Justice and Older Americans.

<sup>4</sup>"Crime and Apprehension Plague the Elderly: Four Federal Agencies Try to Help," pp. 27-28.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Washington, D.C.:NRTA/AARP, 1977.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., p. v.

<sup>8</sup>In Search of Security; A National Perspective on Elderly Crime Victimization, pp. 81-86.



APPENDIX 1

Found in this Appendix is the survey instrument administered in the 1977 Davis Community Survey. Where space and format permits, comparison figures are noted on how the elderly (over 60) and people under 60 answered a particular question. The percentage of elderly respondents who answered the question (or part of question) appears first followed by the percentage of those under 60 who answered the question (or part of question).

Asterisks appear adjacent to those questions which, using Chi Square as the unit of analysis, reflect a significant difference between the two groups at the .01 level (two asterisks) and the .05 level (one asterisk). As a matter of information, and for quick reference, there were a total of 15 questions where responses of the elderly significantly differed from those of the under 60 group (Questions 1, 5, 6, 11, 13, 29, 30, 31, 33, 39, 55, 59, 63, 65, and 74).

A total of 482 respondents took part in this survey. The "elderly" group (over 60) includes 36 respondents.

## COMMUNITY SURVEY

The purpose of this survey is to find out how people feel about this City's police services. We greatly appreciate your time and effort.

Please do not sign your name. We are interested only in the opinions of the community as a whole. All answers will be confidential and no attempt will be made to discover who filled out which questionnaire. Please remember this survey is regarding the City of Davis Police Department and not the UCD Police Department.

## SECTION I.

1. How many years have you lived in Davis? 23.5 / 8.02 (MEAN)
2. How much do you like living in this City?  
(Check one answer)
- 1) 83.3 / 76.1 Like it very much
  - 2) 16.7 / 17.8 Like it a little bit
  - 3) 0.0 / 4.1 Dislike it a little bit
  - 4) 0.0 / 2.1 Dislike it very much
3. Do you take advantage of participating as an active part in the city government? (For example, do you attend meetings, go to special hearings, work on committees?) (Check only those which apply)
- 1) 77.9 / 75.5 No
  - 2) 16.7 / 15.7 Attend meetings (for example, City Council meetings)
  - 3) 0.0 / 5.0 Work on Committees (for example, neighborhood committees)
  - 4) 5.6 / 0.2 Other (Please specify)
4. How safe from crime are you in this city?
- 1) 55.6 / 47.6 Much safer than most other places
  - 2) 38.9 / 48.1 A little safer than most other places
  - 3) 5.6 / 3.7 A little less safe than most other places
  - 4) 0.0 / 0.5 Much less safe than most other places
5. Within the past year the amount of crime in this city has:
- 1) 20.6 / 15.5 Gone up alot
  - 2) 50.0 / 40.5 Gone up a little bit
  - 3) 17.6 / 33.0 Stayed about the same
  - 4) 11.8 / 2.4 Gone down a little bit
  - 5) 0.0 / 0.5 Gone down alot



- ★ 6. How good a job would you say the Davis Police Department is doing in solving crime?

1)	<u>51.4 / 31.7</u>	Very good job
2)	<u>37.1 / 41.8</u>	O.K. job
3)	<u>8.6 / 4.8</u>	Not too good a job
4)	<u>2.9 / 0.2</u>	Very bad job

7. Which of these other things does the Police Department do?

1)	<u>15.2 / 6.7</u>	Settle family and neighbor disputes
2)	<u>9.1 / 7.1</u>	Teaches safety practices in schools
3)	<u>12.1 / 9.6</u>	Has a Citizen's Riders Program
4)	<u>12.1 / 12.8</u>	Has an informative public speaking program
5)	<u>9.1 / 14.8</u>	Issues crime prevention information periodically
6)	<u>6.1 / 12.1</u>	Assists merchants in crime prevention
7)	<u>12.1 / 18.0</u>	Offers property identification (Operation Identification)
8)	<u>12.1 / 7.4</u>	Personally welcomes and offers assistance to new residents in Davis
9)	<u>12.1 / 11.6</u>	Has specialists handling landlord-tenant disputes

8. Overall, how well does it do these other things?

1)	<u>53.1 / 40.7</u>	Very good job
2)	<u>46.9 / 56.2</u>	O.K. job
3)	<u>0.0 / 2.3</u>	Not too good a job
4)	<u>0.0 / 0.8</u>	Very bad job

9. Usually, how many times a week do you see Davis Police Officers?

4.9 / 6.6 (MEAN)

## SECTION II.

Think about the Davis Police Department and its Officers. Then show how you feel about them by circling a number for each of the statements below. The numbers mean:

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1) I agree very much          | 4) I do <u>not</u> agree at all                           |
| 2) I tend to agree            | 5) I do <u>not</u> have enough information to answer this |
| 3) I tend <u>not</u> to agree |   |

For example: "The Police Department is located on Third Street." This statement is true. Therefore, you would circle number one like this:

① 2 3 4 5



- 1) I agree very much
- 2) I tend to agree
- 3) I tend not to agree

- 4) I do not agree at all
- 5) I do not have enough in-  
formation to answer this

The Davis Police Department and its Officers:

(Circle 1 number)

- |        |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10.    | Are not as good as police in other cities                                  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| ★ 11.  | Are earning our respect  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12.    | Act as though they are better than other people                            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| ★★ 13. | Treat people fairly  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 14.    | Like to push people around   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 15.    | Are too easy and "soft" with criminals                                     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 16.    | Try to keep people safe  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 17.    | Try not to use force except when they have to                              | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 18.    | Are looking for ways to do a better job                                    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 19.    | Would like to have total power   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 20.    | Would rather arrest people than try to keep them from getting into trouble | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 21.    | Have my support  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 22.    | Can be trusted   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 23.    | Are friendly   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 24.    | Act as though they are always right  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 25.    | Don't know how to do their job   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 26.    | Are around when you need them  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 27.    | Don't listen to what the people want                                       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 28.    | Are out to get certain people  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Community Survey  
Page 4

- ★ 29. Over the past year or so how have Davis Officers changed in the way they act toward the people in this city?

1)	<u>19.4 / 7.9</u>	Act alot better
2)	<u>6.5 / 13.4</u>	Act a little better
3)	<u>74.2 / 79.5</u>	Remain about the same
4)	<u>0.0 / 1.6</u>	Act a little worse
5)		Act alot worse

- ★ 30. How much has the Davis Police Department lived up to what it said it was going to do?

1)	<u>73.7 / 35.8</u>	Very much
2)	<u>26.3 / 57.5</u>	Some
3)	<u>0.0 / 5.0</u>	Not very much
4)	<u>0.0 / 1.7</u>	Not at all
5)		Don't know

- ★ 31. Do you feel the Davis Police Department should give you more information on what it is doing?

1)	<u>51.6 / 72.7</u>	Yes
2)	<u>48.4 / 27.3</u>	No

Think about the citizens in Davis. Would you agree or disagree with the following statements:

32. Most people in Davis respect Police Department Officers.

1)	<u>47.2 / 29.1</u>	Strongly agree
2)	<u>50.0 / 63.1</u>	Agree somewhat
3)	<u>2.8 / 7.1</u>	Disagree somewhat
4)	<u>0.0 / 0.7</u>	Disagree strongly

- ★ 33. The chance of an Officer being abused by citizens in Davis is high.

1)	<u>11.4 / 2.3</u>	Strongly agree
2)	<u>20.0 / 15.4</u>	Agree somewhat
3)	<u>40.0 / 43.7</u>	Disagree somewhat
4)	<u>28.6 / 38.6</u>	Disagree strongly

34. Most residents in Davis would take a hand if juveniles and children were causing trouble or were on the verge of breaking the law.

1)	<u>20.4 / 14.0</u>	Strongly agree
2)	<u>40.0 / 45.1</u>	Agree somewhat
3)	<u>27.1 / 28.0</u>	Disagree somewhat
4)	<u>2.9 / 12.8</u>	Disagree strongly

Community Survey  
Page 5

35. Generally, residents in Davis would identify themselves if necessary or appear in court if requested to do so by the Police Department.

1)	<u>48.6 / 28.3</u>	Strongly agree
2)	<u>42.9 / 58.0</u>	Agree somewhat
3)	<u>8.6 / 11.8</u>	Disagree somewhat
4)	<u>0.1 / 1.4</u>	Strongly disagree

36. Most Davis residents would not help Davis Police Officers in identifying criminals.

1)	<u>8.6 / 3.4</u>	Strongly agree
2)	<u>22.9 / 14.9</u>	Agree somewhat
3)	<u>51.4 / 50.8</u>	Disagree somewhat
4)	<u>17.1 / 30.8</u>	Strongly disagree

37. Most Davis residents report crimes they observe to the Police Department.

1)	<u>8.6 / 3.4</u>	Strongly agree
2)	<u>22.9 / 14.4</u>	Agree somewhat
3)	<u>51.4 / 50.8</u>	Disagree somewhat
4)	<u>17.1 / 30.8</u>	Strongly disagree

SECTION III.

38. In the past year did you call the Davis Police Department?

1)	<u>44.4 / 55.6</u>	Yes
2)	<u>55.6 / 44.4</u>	No

- ★★ 39. In the past year has a Davis Police Officer questioned you?

1)	<u>11.4 / 41.6</u>	Yes	(If yes, answer questions 40 to 47)
2)	<u>88.6 / 58.1</u>	No	(If no, go on to question 48)

40. If a Davis Police Officer has questioned you within the past year, were you:

1)	<u>22.2 / 10.8</u>	Witness to a crime
2)	<u>0.0 / 8.3</u>	Crime suspect
3)	<u>22.2 / 22.5</u>	Crime victim
4)	<u>11.1 / 27.0</u>	Part of another official situation
5)	<u>44.4 / 31.4</u>	Does not apply

41. Check the reason for the officer questioning you.

- |    |                  |  |
|----|------------------|--|
| 1) | <u>0.0/1.1</u>   | Family argument or fight                           |
| 2) | <u>0.0/1.1</u>   | Neighborhood argument or fight                     |
| 3) | <u>20.0/10.6</u> | Other disturbance                                  |
| 4) | <u>40.0/15.6</u> | Some type of crime by adult                        |
| 5) | <u>20.0/16.8</u> | Some type of juvenile crime                        |
| 6) | <u>0.0/6.7</u>   | Some type of juvenile problem that was not a crime |
| 7) | <u>20.0/48.0</u> | Other  |

How do you feel about the way the officer or officers handled the situation? They:

- |     |    |                  |                                 |    |                  |                           |
|-----|----|------------------|---------------------------------|----|------------------|---------------------------|
| 42. | 1) | <u>100/94.0</u>  | Treated people well             | 2) | <u>0.0/6.0</u>   | Treated people poor       |
| 43. | 1) | <u>50/56.0</u>   | Solved the problem              | 2) | <u>50/4.3</u>    | Did not solve problem     |
| 44. | 1) | <u>0.0/12.0</u>  | Did not show respect for people | 2) | <u>100/88.0</u>  | Showed respect for people |
| 45. | 1) | <u>50.0/14.0</u> | Did not do the job well         | 2) | <u>50.0/80.9</u> | Did the job well          |
| 46. | 1) | <u>66.7/77.8</u> | I was satisfied                 | 2) | <u>33.3/22.2</u> | I was not satisfied       |
| 47. | 1) | <u>0.0/10.2</u>  | Was unfriendly                  | 2) | <u>100/89.8</u>  | Was friendly              |

48. How much would you trust Davis Officers to help you with a serious problem?

- |    |                  |                             |
|----|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) | <u>80.0/64.1</u> | Trust them alot             |
| 2) | <u>20.0/31.0</u> | Trust them a little bit     |
| 3) | <u>0.0/2.7</u>   | Do not trust them very much |
| 4) | <u>0.0/2.2</u>   | Do not trust them at all    |

SECTION IV.

- |   | YES   | NO                 |
|---|---|--------------------|
| 49. Are you a Police Officer?                   | 1. <u>0.0/0.5</u>                           | 2. <u>100/99.5</u> |
| 50. Are you a relative of a Police Officer?     | 1. <u>0.0/6.3</u>                           | 2. <u>100/93.7</u> |
| 51. Are you a close friend of a Police Officer? | 1. <u>3.0/15.5</u>                          | 2. <u>97/84.5</u>  |
| 52. What is your age?                           | <u>35.6 (MEAN - FOR ALL)</u><br>12-83 RANGE |                    |



53. Are you a member of an ethnic minority group?

1) 9.4/10.3 Yes  
2) 90.6/89.7 No

YES

NO

54. Are you a high school graduate?

1. 85.7/94.8 2. 14.3/5.2

55. Are you a college graduate?

1. 40.0/62.5 2. 60.0/37.5

Do you work at:

56. A full time job outside the home?

1. 30.3/49.3 2. 69.7/50.7

57. A part time job outside the home?

1. 14.7/26.8 2. 85.3/73.2

58. Do you consider yourself (your family):

1) 0.0/1.6 Rich  
2) 73.5/50.4 Not rich but well off  
3) 23.5/45.2 Struggling a bit for money  
4) 2.9/2.8 Poor

59. Are you:

1) 65.7/59.5 Married  
2) 2.9/32.4 Single  
3) 2.9/7.9 Divorced  
4) 28.6/0.2 Widowed

60. How many children do you have living with you? .53/1.1 (MEAN)

61. How many children 12 years or older do you have living with you?

.47/.54 (MEAN)

62. Are you:

1) 51.4/49.3 Male  
2) 48.6/50.7 Female

63. Do you provide:

1) 54.5/29.7 All of the financial support for your family  
2) 3.0/15.4 Most of the financial support for your family  
3) 21.2/12.6 Half of the financial support for your family  
4) 9.1/18.5 Some of the financial support for your family  
5) 12.1/23.8 None of the financial support for your family

65. Are you? (check one)

- ☐ Not a student, nor a manager of an apartment complex, nor a merchant. 93.3/59.4
- ☐ A student. 0.0/19.1
- ☐ A student living in an apartment complex. 0.0/10.7
- ☐ A manager of an apartment complex. 0.0/1.2
- ☐ A businessperson or merchant in Davis. 6.7/9.6

66. Have you participated in the property identification program?

- ☐ Yes 23.3/25.1 ☐ No 73.3/74.9

67. Have you taken part in "rap sessions" held in your apartment complex?

- ☐ Yes 3.2/2.5 ☐ No 96.8/97.5 ☐ Don't live in one

68. Are you a member of a service club?

- ☐ Yes 20.0/7.6 ☐ No 80.0/92.4

If "yes," which one? \_\_\_\_\_

69. Have you participated in the Citizen Rider Program?

- ☐ Yes 0.0/2.8 ☐ No 100/97.2

70. Have you read any newspaper articles describing the Davis Police Department programs?

- ☐ Yes 77.4/65.1 ☐ No 22.6/34.9

71. Have you taken part with the Davis Police Department in any of the following programs:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Information & Liaison Program                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Police Officers Speaker's Program               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Resident Contact Program                            | <input type="checkbox"/> News Media Program                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Culture Citizen Liaison/Resource Pool             | <input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement, Prevention & Apprehension Program  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Crime Prevention Education Program             | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Security Check                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apartment Owners & Managers Information & Educ. Program | <input type="checkbox"/> I have not taken part in any of these programs. |

72. Although the Police Department cannot withhold information about adult crime victims from the newspapers, if you were a victim of a crime, what would you wish the newspapers to do?

1. 6.1/8.2 Print name and address
2. 27.3/15.1 Print name only
3. 0.0/1.6 Print address only
4. 54.5/61.9 Print no identifying information
5. 9.1/7.3 Have no opinion
6. 3.0/5.9 Don't care

73. Did you or any other member of your household complete a questionnaire similar to this one last year?

52.9/70.0 No

47.1/30.0 Yes

\* 74.

If yes, did you complete the questionnaire last year?

55.9/74.4 No

44.1/25.6 Yes

75. Please indicate any police activities or programs you would like to see either started, stopped or improved upon in the future.

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If you would like to know the results of this survey, please contact the Police Department in late June. Thank you for your time.



A P P E N D I X   2



# WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO PREVENT CRIME?



## ANTI-CRIME HINTS FOR OLDER PERSONS



## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR SECURE YOUR HOME MARK YOUR PROPERTY WATCH AND REPORT CRIME



PROJECT FUNDED BY THE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



**FEAR OF CRIME HAS BEEN A CONSTANT  
CONCERN TO OLDER PERSONS.**

**THE IMPACT OF CRIME IS FELT THROUGH  
FEAR AS WELL AS ACTUAL VICTIMIZATION.**

**USE OF CRIME PREVENTION PRACTICES:**

- 1. CAN REDUCE FEAR  
AND**
- 2. CAN REDUCE THE CHANCE  
OF VICTIMIZATION**

**WHAT HAVE YOU DONE  
TO PREVENT CRIME?**

PUBLISHED BY  
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/CRIME PREVENTION UNIT  
MULTNOMAH COUNTY DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DONALD E. CLARK  
CHAIRMAN, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
9980 S.E. WASHINGTON STREET  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97216  
255-7422  
1977

**MEET THESE CRIME VICTIMS:  
COULD THEY BE YOU?**



MRS. STONE IS 72 YEARS OLD.  
SHE LIVES WITH HER HUSBAND  
IN AN APARTMENT. SHE WAS A  
PURSE SNATCH VICTIM!

WILL IT HAPPEN AGAIN?

MRS. RANDALL IS 75 YEARS OLD.  
SHE LIVES ALONE IN A HOUSE  
IN THE CITY. SHE HAS BEEN  
BURGLARIZED TWICE!

WILL IT HAPPEN AGAIN?



MR. TICE IS 68 YEARS OLD.  
HE LIVES WITH HIS WIFE IN  
AN URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD. HE  
HAS LOST OVER \$300 IN  
SEPARATE INCIDENTS OF THEFT!

WILL IT HAPPEN AGAIN?



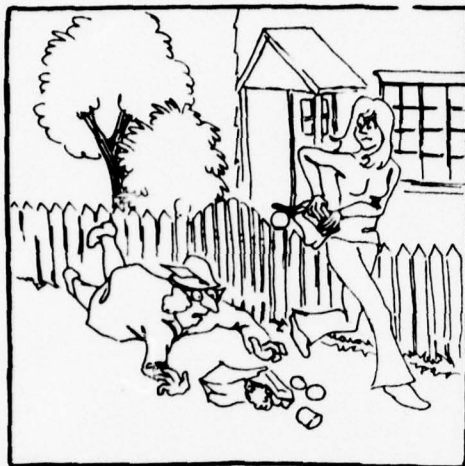
EVERY MONTH MRS. STONE  
TAKES HER SOCIAL SECURITY  
CHECK TO THE BANK AND  
CASHES IT. SHE HAS  
NEVER TRUSTED BANKS  
SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION  
SO SHE TAKES ALL OF HER  
CASH HOME WITH HER.

DID YOU KNOW MANY CRIMINALS WAIT EVERY MONTH FOR CHECK ARRIVALS  
AND PICK THAT DAY TO ATTACK?

MRS. STONE USUALLY  
STOPS AT THE GROCERY  
STORE ON HER WAY HOME.  
SHE IS NOT CAREFUL WITH  
HER MONEY AND OFTEN  
EXPOSES MANY DOLLARS  
TO THE EYES OF ONLOOKERS.







LAST MONTH WHILE CARRYING  
HER BAG OF GROCERIES HOME,  
MRS. STONE WAS ATTACKED.

SHE TRIED TO HOLD ON TO  
HER PURSE AND WAS PULLED  
TO THE GROUND.

DID YOU KNOW THAT 12% OF ALL CRIMES AGAINST OLDER PERSONS ARE  
PURSE SNATCH AND STREET ROBBERIES?

MRS. STONE SUFFERED A  
BROKEN SHOULDER AND IS  
NOW LYING IN THE  
HOSPITAL. IF SHE IS  
LUCKY SHE WILL BE ABLE  
TO GO HOME IN SIX WEEKS.  
IF SHE IS NOT, SHE MAY  
GO TO A NURSING HOME  
FOR THE REST OF HER  
LIFE.



DID YOU KNOW SOME STUDIES SHOW 3/4 OF ALL PURSE SNATCH VICTIMS  
SUFFER SOME INJURY? 1/10 SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIVES IN A  
NURSING HOME.

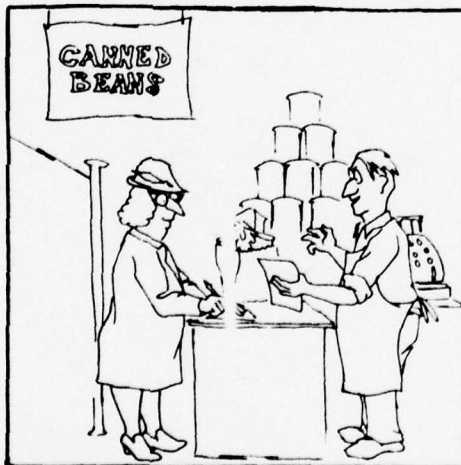
WHAT SHOULD MRS. STONE DO TO PREVENT FUTURE VICTIMIZATIONS?



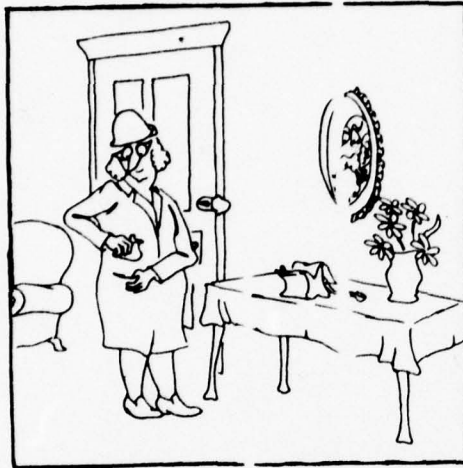
SHE SHOULD TAKE  
ADVANTAGE OF THE  
DIRECT DEPOSIT SOCIAL  
SECURITY SYSTEM. HER  
CHECK CAN GO DIRECTLY  
TO THE BANK. SHE CAN  
WITHDRAW ONLY WHAT  
SHE NEEDS!

YOU CAN CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BANK AND ARRANGE FOR THIS SERVICE.

SHE SHOULD USE CHECKS  
AT STORES OR OPEN AN  
ACCOUNT!



4 AT SOME BANKS, CHECKS ARE FREE TO SENIOR CITIZENS. MANY STORES  
WILL GLADLY HELP YOU SHOP IN THIS WAY.



THE BEST IDEA IS TO  
LEAVE HER PURSE AT  
HOME. MRS. STONE  
SHOULD CARRY ONLY  
WHAT SHE NEEDS AND  
CARRY IT IN HER  
POCKET.

YOU CAN LEARN ABOUT THE FIVE DAY PURSE WITHDRAWAL PROGRAM FROM  
THE CRIME PREVENTION UNIT: 255-7422.

IF MRS. STONE INSISTS  
ON CARRYING A PURSE,  
SHE SHOULD ALWAYS GIVE  
IT TO THE CRIMINAL IF  
ATTACKED.



YOU CAN AVOID INJURY IF YOU DON'T FIGHT AN ATTACKER.



MRS. RANDALL LIVES IN  
A CHANGING NEIGHBORHOOD.  
SHE DOES NOT KNOW HER  
NEIGHBORS AND IS AFRAID  
OF GOING ANYWHERE BY  
HERSELF.

DID YOU KNOW THAT FEAR OF CRIME IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST CONCERNS  
OF ALL OLDER PERSONS?

MRS. RANDALL DOESN'T  
LIGHT HER HOUSE AT  
NIGHT. SHE OFTEN  
GOES TO BED EARLY  
AND THE HOUSE IS  
DARK.



DID YOU KNOW THAT LIGHTING MAY HELP DETER CRIME BY HELPING  
NEIGHBORS GUARD YOUR HOME?





MRS. RANDALL IS NOT CAREFUL ABOUT HER HOME'S SECURITY APPEARANCE. OFTEN CURTAINS ARE LEFT OPEN AT NIGHT AND ARE CLOSED DURING THE DAY.

DID YOU KNOW THAT CURTAINS SHOULD BE OPEN DURING THE DAY AND CLOSED AT NIGHT WITH THE LIGHTS ON? A HOME THAT APPEARS OCCUPIED MAY DISCOURAGE BURGLARS.

TWO MONTHS AGO MRS. RANDALL'S HOME WAS BURGLARIZED. SHE FORGOT TO LOCK THE DOOR. MRS. RANDALL DIDN'T THINK THE POLICE COULD DO ANYTHING SO SHE DIDN'T CALL THEM.



DID YOU KNOW 3/4 OF THE BURGLARIES INVOLVING OLDER PERSONS INVOLVED UNLOCKED DOORS OR WINDOWS?

DID YOU KNOW LESS THAN 50% OF OLDER PERSONS REPORT SUCH CRIMES?



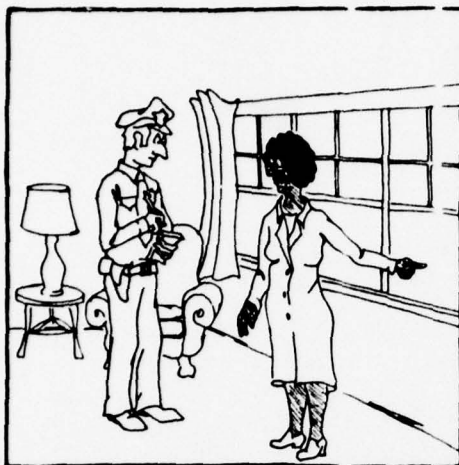
LAST MONTH MRS. RANDALL WENT ON VACATION. SHE LOCKED HER DOOR BUT DID NOT KNOW HER NEIGHBORS SO NO ONE WAS ASKED TO TURN ON LIGHTS OR PICK UP PAPERS.

DID YOU KNOW MANY OLDER PERSONS KNOW ABOUT CRIME PREVENTION BUT STILL DO NOTHING TO HELP PREVENT CRIME?

MRS. RANDALL'S HOME WAS BURGLARIZED WHILE SHE WAS GONE BECAUSE BURGLARS LOOK FOR SIGNS THAT NO ONE IS HOME.



DID YOU KNOW THE DOLLAR LOSS OF THE AVERAGE BURGLARY OF AN OLDER CITIZEN IS \$300?



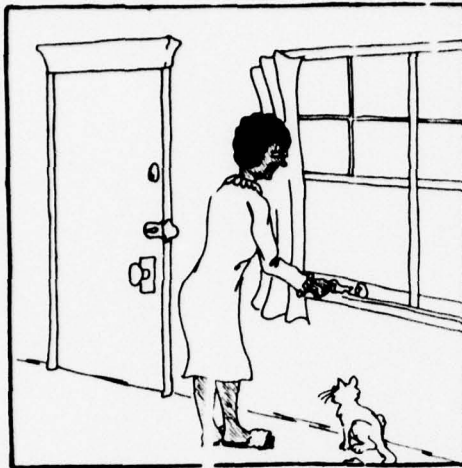
THIS TIME, MRS. RANDALL  
CALLED THE POLICE AND  
REPORTED THE CRIME.  
THE POLICEMAN INFORMED  
HER ABOUT SERVICES  
AVAILABLE FROM HER  
CRIME PREVENTION UNIT.

REMEMBER NOT ALL CRIMES ARE SOLVED BUT THOSE NOT REPORTED ARE  
NEVER SOLVED. YOU CAN REPORT CRIME BY CALLING: 760-6911.

THE CRIME PREVENTION  
OFFICERS ARRANGED A  
CRIME PREVENTION BLOCK  
MEETING AND MRS. RANDALL  
GOT TO KNOW HER  
NEIGHBORS.



CRIME PREVENTION BLOCK MEETINGS CAN BE ARRANGED IN YOUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD BY CALLING: 255-7422.



THE POLICEMAN AT THE BLOCK MEETING TOLD MRS. RANDALL AND HER NEIGHBORS HOW TO SECURE HER HOME WITH PROPER LOCKS.

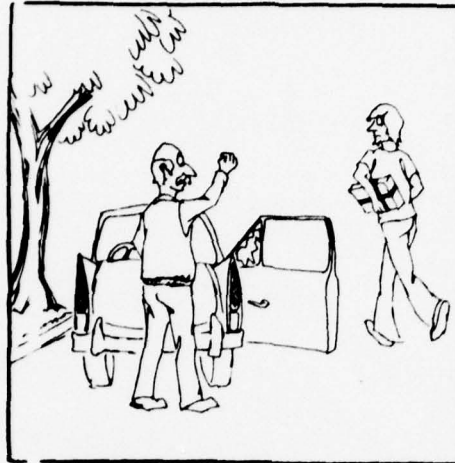
YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT PROPER LOCKS AND HOME SECURITY BY CALLING: 255-7422.

MRS. RANDALL LEARNED TO IDENTIFY HER PROPERTY WITH HER DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER OR HER SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.



YOU CAN CHECK OUT ENGRAVERS BY CALLING: 255-7422.





MR. TICE HAS BEEN A VICTIM OF THEFT  
MAYY TIMES. THE LAST TIME HE HAD  
BOUGHT A PRESENT FOR HIS DAUGHTER'S  
BIRTHDAY. HE LEFT IT IN HIS CAR  
AND WHILE HE WAS IN THE HOUSE IT  
WAS STOLEN!

DID YOU KNOW THAT 1/3 OF ALL ELDERLY  
VICTIMS ARE MULTIPLE VICTIMS? THEY  
ARE VICTIMS ON AVERAGE 4 TIMES IN A  
3 YEAR PERIOD.



MR. TICE WENT TO MRS. RANDALL'S BLOCK MEETING. HE LEARNED THAT ALL VALUABLES SHOULD BE STORED IN THE TRUNK OF HIS CAR.

DID YOU KNOW OVER 3/4 OF ALL CRIMES INVOLVING OLDER PERSONS TAKE PLACE IN OR NEAR THE HOME?

HE LEARNED THAT VALUABLES IN THE YARD OR OTHER OUTSIDE AREAS SHOULD BE LOCKED IN THE GARAGE WHILE NOT IN USE.



DID YOU KNOW 2/3 OF ALL CRIMES AGAINST OLDER CITIZENS INVOLVE BURGLARY, VANDALISM AND THEFT?

**WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO PREVENT CRIME?**

**HAVE YOU SECURED YOUR HOME?  
HAVE YOU MARKED YOUR PROPERTY?  
DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS?**

**FOR ASSISTANCE,  
CALL YOUR CRIME PREVENTION UNIT:**

**255-7422**

**HAVE YOU BEEN A VICTIM?  
DID YOU REPORT IT TO THE POLICE?  
TO REPORT A CRIME, CALL THE POLICE:**

**760-6911**

**NOT ALL CRIMES CAN BE PREVENTED,  
BUT YOU CAN REDUCE THE CHANCES  
OF CRIME HAPPENING TO YOU!**

**NOT ALL CRIMES ARE SOLVED,  
BUT THOSE NOT REPORTED ARE NEVER SOLVED!**

PAMPHLET DESIGN BY:  
MARLENE YOUNG RIFAI

ART WORK BY  
BRUCE BULLOCK

## **HELP TO PREVENT CRIME!**

### **ACT NOW!**

**MULTNOMAH COUNTY DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/CRIME PREVENTION UNIT  
PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANCE:**

- 1. NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK MEETINGS.**
- 2. PUBLIC DROP-IN DISPLAY CENTER IN MALL 205.**
- 3. INFORMATION BY MAIL.**
- 4. CRIME PREVENTION EDUCATION FOR OLDER PERSONS.**
- 5. PROPERTY ENGRAVERS AND WARNING DECALS.**
- 6. PROPERTY ENGRAVING SERVICE FOR SHUT-INS.**

**CALL: 255-7422**



# PURSELESS POCKET

156

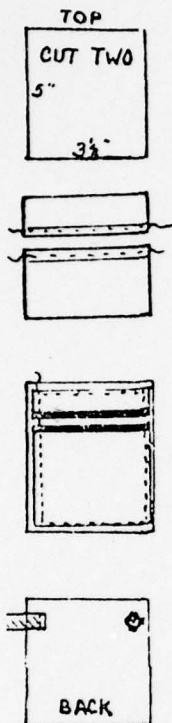
Prepared by THE SINGER COMPANY

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE BEGINNING!

## SUMMER POCKET

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

1/4 YD. MUSLIN OR STURDY LIGHTWEIGHT FABRIC  
3 INCH STRIP BIAS TAPE  
1 SNAP



**STEP 1** FOLD FABRIC IN HALF AND CUT A RECTANGLE MEASURING 3 1/2 X 5 INCHES. THERE WILL NOW BE TWO 3 1/2 X 5 INCH PIECES. ON ONE PIECE, MEASURE 1" FROM TOP AND CUT ACROSS.

**STEP 2** TURN UNDER AND STITCH 1/4" ON BOTTOM OF 1" SECTION; TURN UNDER AND STITCH 1/4" ON TOP OF 4" SECTION. THIS WILL BE THE SLIT OPENING.

**STEP 3** LAY THESE TWO SECTIONS WRONG SIDE OUT ONTO RIGHT SIDE OF UNCUT PIECE, MAKING ALL OUTER EDGES EVEN.

STITCH ALL FOUR SIDES 1/4" FROM EDGES. USE "15" STITCH LENGTH ON MACHINE OR SMALL HAND STITCHES.

**STEP 4** TURN RIGHT SIDES TO OUTSIDE AND PRESS FLAT.

**STEP 5** USE 3" PIECE OF BIAS TAPE; FOLD EDGE UNDER 1/4" AND ATTACH TO LEFT SIDE ON BACK OF POCKET. SEW SNAP ON TAPE END AND RIGHT SIDE OF POCKET BACK.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE FOR SEWING SNAPS.

ATTACH POCKET TO BRA STRAP - SNAP TAPE AROUND STRAP. THIS WILL HOLD MONEY, HOUSE KEY OR CREDIT CARDS, AND AVOID HAVING TO CARRY VALUABLES IN PURSE.

(OVER)

**WINTER POCKET**

TO BE USED INSIDE COAT

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

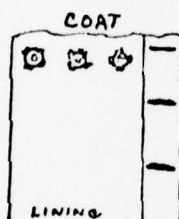
1/4 YD. DENIM, HEAVY LINING FABRIC,  
OR ANY DARK STURDY FABRIC  
3 SNAPS FOR EACH COAT

**STEP 1** FOLD FABRIC IN HALF AND CUT RECTANGLE 6 X 7 1/2 INCHES  
THERE WILL THEN BE TWO PIECES 6 X 7 1/2 INCHES.  
FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS FOR "SUMMER POCKET" THROUGH  
STEP 4.

**STEP 5**

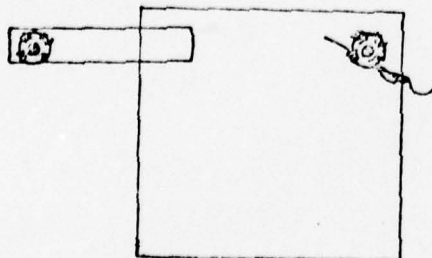
ATTACH BALL SECTION OF SNAPS TO  
BACK OF POCKET, 1" FROM TOP, AND  
EQUALLY SPACED.

ATTACH SOCKET SECTIONS TO MATCH ON  
COAT LINING.



IF SOCKET SECTION OF SNAPS ARE  
APPLIED TO ALL WINTER COATS, THE  
POCKET CAN BE MOVED FROM ONE  
GARMENT TO ANOTHER.

**SEWING SNAPS:** ATTACH THE BALL SECTION OF SNAP TO END OF BIAS TAPE,  
AND SOCKET SECTION TO RIGHT SIDE OF POCKET BACK.  
SEW SNAP TO POCKET WITH SMALL CLOSE OVERHAND STITCHES  
THROUGH ONE HOLE, PICKING UP A GARMENT THREAD WITH  
EACH STITCH. THEN CARRY THREAD UNDER SNAP AND REPEAT  
INTO NEXT HOLE.



A P P E N D I X 3

## LIST OF SELECTED SOURCES

Staff Director, U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging,  
Washington, D.C.

Representative Edward R. Roybal, Chairman, U.S. House  
Select Committee on Aging, Subcommittee on Housing  
and Consumer Interests, Washington, D.C.

National Criminal Justice Reference Service (LEAA),  
Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Adminis-  
tration on Aging, Washington, D.C.

Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing  
Office, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Administration on Aging, Regional Office, Region IX,  
50 Fulton Street, San Francisco, California.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (S/A Eliason), 2800  
Cottage Way, Sacramento, California.

California Office on Aging, 484 J Street, Sacramento,  
California.

California Attorney General, Crime Prevention Unit (Mr.  
Francis) 555 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, California.

California District Attorney's Association, 555 Capitol  
Mall, Sacramento, California.

California Office of Criminal Justice Planning, 7100  
Bolling Drive, Sacramento, California (to include  
P.O.S.T. Library).

California Office of Criminal Justice Statistics, 77  
Cadillac Drive, Sacramento, California.

Sacramento Police Department, Community Relations Office/  
Crime Prevention Unit/Analysis Division, Sacramento,  
California.

City of Sacramento, Housing and Development Office  
(Deputy Director, Bob Roach) 310 J Street, Sacramento,  
California.



University of Southern California, Andrus Gerontology  
Center, University Park, California.

Dr. Marlene A. Young Rifai, Multnomah County Division of  
Public Safety, Portland, Oregon.

Mr. George Sunderland, Crime Coordinator AARP/NRTA,  
Washington, D.C.

Davis Police Department, Community Resources Division  
(Sgt. Steve Ripple), Davis, California.

Davis Chamber of Commerce, 620 Fourth Street, Davis,  
California.

The Police Foundation, 1909 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

LIBRARY  
Elder Percy Anders  
GERONTOLOGY CENTER  
UNIVERSITY PARK  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90089

(215) 545-640

March 8, 1978

Capt. David A. Coulie  
3500 Huntsman Lane  
Sacramento, CA 95826

Dear Capt. Coulie:

I am pleased to hear that you have already identified many of the periodical and congressional materials on crime and the elderly. I trust that you know about the bibliography on current publications in gerontology that appears in each issue of the JOURNAL OF GERONTOLOGY. There are more and more citations on crime and the elderly.

The library has also just acquired a new book JUSTICE AND OLDER AMERICANS edited by Marlene A. Young Rifai and published by Lexington Books in 1977. The author is from the Multnomah County (Oregon) Division of Public Safety. They have been doing research on crime for some time.

Hope this information will be of some assistance.

Yours very truly,

Jean E. Mueller  
Librarian

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
REFUGEE ASSOCIATION  
TEACHERS OF ENGLISH  
ASSOCIATION

February 21, 1978

Captain David A. Coulie  
3500 Huntsman Dr.  
Sacramento, CA 95826

Dear Captain Coulie:

Under separate cover I am forwarding the Wilmington, DE., St. Petersburg, FL., and the Houston, TX., survey results. I am also forwarding a computerized print-out of material on file with NCJRS in Washington, D. C. In addition, I am forwarding a binder of material of a general nature.

Midwest Research Institute of Kansas City, MO., and the Bureau of Criminal Justice Planning, Bryant Building, Tallahassee, FL., have completed victimization surveys. The Florida survey was jointly sponsored by our Associations.

The Wilmington, DE., model was included because, in my view, it represents the "hard core" crime typically experienced in the inner city when an aging majority interfaces with a teenage minority, such as Blacks or Puerto Ricans. The Houston survey, in my view, is representative of the Black, Hispanic and Anglo populations. Most representative, is the St. Pete study which fits our findings here. Older persons have VERY LOW RATES of victimization in most areas when we consider the three most serious Part I Crimes, Homicide, Rape and Aggravated Assault. Even more important, I think, is that most of these, small in number as they may be, can be further decreased by simple crime prevention techniques. When we studied NYC, with the outstanding cooperation of NYPD, and reviewed the reporting officers' offense reports, many of the rapes and assaults were escalations of simple burglaries or other crimes of opportunity.

We are the principal targets OF the swindlers, as pointed out in Attorney General Evelle Younger's California study. Also, the older person is the principal target of purse snatch and strong arm robbery. We are still arguing over whether or not burglary has a strong age correlation.

Dr. J. Craythorn  
President, NIRA  
National Headquarters: 1909 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006

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Captain Coulie  
February 21, 1974  
Page 2

Sorry I have such little time to discuss these matters, since they are of great interest to me and have occupied my full attention for the past six years. We have more than 12 million members now and the demand keeps me moving.

Call me collect at (202) 872-4912 if you need more help.

Send me your writings.

Best wishes,

George Sunderland  
Senior Coordinator  
Crime Prevention Program

GS/emg



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## MULTI-JURISDICTION COUNTY OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMUNITY AND ADULT PROBATION  
PORTLAND, OREGON  
1001 N. BROADWAY  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97202



Dear Colleague,

Enclosed is a copy of our latest brochure entitled "Benevolent Society" which is specially tailored for our elderly population.

Selected papers from the proceedings of the National Benevolent Conference, held last fall, have been edited for publication by Lexington Books, Inc. D.C. Heath & Company in a volume entitled Justice and Older Americans, by Dr. Marlene A. Young Rife. This book can now be purchased by contacting:

Lexington Books  
D.C. Heath & Company  
125 Spring Street  
Lexington, Massachusetts 02173

The book consists of approximately twenty independent papers from scholars, professionals in social services, lawyers, criminal justice administrators, etc.

Thank you for your interest. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

*Marlene A. Young Rife*

Marlene A. Young Rife, Ph.D.,  
Research Director

MA:rmj

Enclosures

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFERENCE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531

REFERENCE SERVICES RESPONSE TO REQUEST:

Dear Requester:

Please excuse our informal means of replying to your request for information. We have found that this method greatly decreases our processing time to the ultimate advantage of all of the users of Reference Services. Please note our response as checked below. If we have requested additional information from you, please reply on this form, or attach form to your reply.

Date of Your Request and Request Topic (if applicable):

- ☒ We are pleased to enclose the information you have requested.
- ☐ We regret that we are unable to process your request for information because the topics you have indicated are:
- ☐ Too general to be processed through our computerized retrieval system.\*
  - ☐ Not identifiable from the information you have provided.
  - ☐ Not handled by NCJRS. An appropriate source of the information may be indicated below.

\*Please supply additional information which would serve to clarify your request.

☐ Your request has been forwarded to the appropriate agency (see below) for response.

☒ Other or Remarks:

*Documents mailed Separately.*

*ABSTRACTS ON Crime Against The Elderly.*



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
REGIONAL OFFICE  
80 FULTON STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

February 14, 1978

OFFICE OF  
THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
DHDS/OCA/IX

Captain David A. Coulie  
3500 Huntsman Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826

Dear Captain Coulie:

Here are the articles I promised to send. I hope you will find them  
useful in preparing your thesis.

Sincerely,

*Susan J. Rich*  
Susan J. Rich  
Aging Program Specialist

Enclosure

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# Police Foundation

1909 K Street NW  
Suite 400  
Washington DC 20006  
Phone (202) 833-1460

Francis W. Sargent  
Chairman of the Board

Patrick V. Murphy  
President

167

April 19, 1978

Captain David A. Coulie  
3500 Huntsman Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826

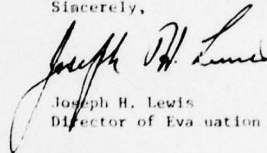
Dear Captain Coulie:

The Police Foundation is happy to authorize your use of the set of Sacramento survey data collected by Arthur Young & Company as described in your letter dated 14 April, 1978. You will, of course, continue to safeguard the anonymity of individual respondents.

We look forward to seeing your results when you have completed your research.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Foundation.

Sincerely,



Joseph H. Lewis  
Director of Evaluation

cc: John Heaphy  
Joseph Hill

JHL:dl



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NINETY-FIFTH CONGRESS

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WILLIAM F. WILSON, N.Y.  
WALTER J. FALGOUT, N.Y.  
EX OFFICIO  
WILLIAM C. HOPKIN, VA.

**U.S. House of Representatives**

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND CONSUMER INTERESTS  
717 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING ANNEX 1

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4242

February 27, 1978

JOSE S. BARRA  
MAJORITY STAFF  
PATRICIA LAWRENCE  
MINORITY STAFF

Captain David A. Coulie  
1500 Hunstman Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826

Dear Captain Coulie:

Enclosed are copies of the annotated bibliography on Crime against the Elderly from the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice and the Newsletter of Innovative Projects from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. I hope that you will find these sources of value in your work at Cal State University at Sacramento.

Thank you for your help in seeking recognition for the special problems of elderly victims of crime.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYBAL  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Housing  
and Consumer Interests

E R/cm

Enclosures

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- Cunningham, Carl L. Crimes Against the Aging. Patterns and Prevention. Kansas City, Missouri: Midwest Research Institute, 1977.
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